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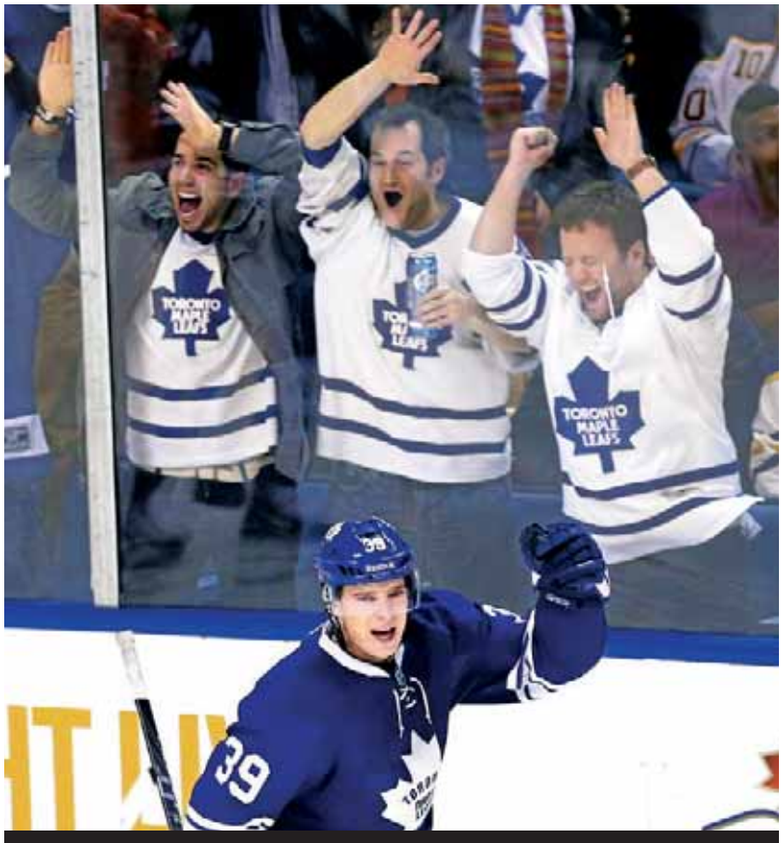

OT THRILLER

The Toronto Maple Leafs' Matt Frattin celebrates his overtime goal during a game against the Sabres in Buffalo on Tuesday. The Leafs won 4-3. Story, page 32. DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Googling jurors pose problems for the courts

Appeal. Drug-related convictions may be overturned after jury members allegedly searched online for case information

In a case pitting the Internet age against the hallowed jury system, the drug-related convictions of two men could be overturned if the Ontario Court of Appeal finds the verdict was tainted by members of a jury Googling during the trial.

Allegations by the defence of juror misconduct came to light months after the guilty verdict, in a quintessentially Canadian way: A juror was overheard having a conversation in a Tim Hortons indicating that fellow jurors had searched online for information on the case that wasn't available in court.

But in another typically Canadian detail, specifics of what happened when jurors were summoned and questioned by the trial judge remain a secret because of a sweeping publication ban she imposed. The judge-ordered gag ruling prevents the public from knowing anything about the case.

Despite the secrecy, the case has wide-ranging implications for the jury system, with the province's highest court expected to send a strong signal on the issue of jurors trolling online for information.

In her ruling imposing a publication ban, the trial judge wrote it was necessary to protect the defendants' rights to be tried fairly, should the Court of Appeal order a retrial.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Background

- The judge in the case before the Court of Appeal told jurors not to seek out information or research the case during the trial. She also told jurors to report any violations to the judge. No such complaints were made during the four-week trial.
- The accused men in the Googling case have been released from custody pending appeal. No date has been scheduled for the appeal.

Make or break

There's much at stake for RIM with launch of long-awaited BlackBerry 10 OS PAGE 6

Life after jail

Documentary tells story of West Memphis Three, granted freedom after 18 years PAGE 22

On a mission

Blue Jays knuckleballer R.A. Dickey takes aim at child sex trafficking in India PAGE 8

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Warning for Ford

Senator and former mayor Art Eggleton.
STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ex-mayors say no dice to a casino

Three former Toronto mayors are urging Mayor Rob Ford and city council to "beware the sales pitch" and slam the door on a casino.

In a joint letter, David Crombie (1972-1978), John Sewell (1978-1980), and Senator Art Eggleton (1980-1991) argue "it is not in our city's best interest to establish commercial casino operations in Toronto."

The letter, provided by Eggleton, pits them against Ford and former Metro chair Paul Godfrey (1973-1984), now chair of Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., who are urging councillors to welcome a downtown casino in a vote expected in April.

Crombie, Sewell and Eggleton say that, during their years in office, "we saw countless proposals that proponents said would bring the city big revenues, many jobs and much prestige. And some of them did, but beware the sales pitch."

Economic benefits may be overstated, they say, citing U.S. research suggesting that for every $1 benefit there are $3 in costs for such things as infrastructure, policing and social services.

The ex-mayors warn of a potential rise in crime and harm to businesses surrounding any new casino. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

City looks to tackle human trafficking

The victims. Toronto police say most victims of human trafficking are women and girls forced into prostitution

The City of Toronto is considering joining the war on human trafficking, but it probably won't stop advertising in publications with escort ads.

In a report before Mayor Rob Ford's executive committee next week, city staff note that Toronto is the Canadian hot spot for the vile crime.

They recommend that Toronto start collaborating with groups and committees who are trying to stamp out forced sex work and other forms of exploitation.

The city would also work with other levels of government and Toronto police to "design a training program to inform, educate and train city staff regarding human trafficking."

Finally, data would be collected "about trafficked persons, success stories and charged and convicted traffickers to benchmark and monitor the trends in Toronto."

Violators from Toronto

- **Crimes.** Statistics Canada figures show that, of the 77 people charged in Canada with human trafficking between 2006 and 2011, 34 — almost half — were in Toronto. Three-quarters of convictions for the crime were in Southern Ontario and 62.5 per cent in the GTA, the report states.

The report notes the city advertises in "a number" of online and print publications that may contribute to human trafficking by running escort ads, which police and others say "may be used to market trafficked persons to prospective customers."

However, staff recommended the city not yank those ads unless it does a thorough review to determine if the publications are, in fact, contributing to the problem.

Toronto police say most human-trafficking victims here are girls and women forced into various forms of prostitution.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parents band together to push for school improvements

Parents Peter Saros, whose son is in kindergarten, and Heather Tormey, with her son Eagan, stand in front of Secord Public School on Barrington Avenue in East York on Tuesday. Parents at five East York schools have banded together, saying they've been repeatedly overlooked despite a desperate need for school additions and improvements, including classrooms that are at times unusable because of raccoon infestations. Got to metronews.ca for full story. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Cowboys, Indians, and tweeps walk into a bar

Online party crashes real-life party. Tweeters found costumes and theme 'racist'

Bar patrons who wore feather headdresses and war paint to a "Cowboys and Indians" party on Saturday faced a battle they may not have expected.

A horde of outraged social-media users crashed the Parkdale bar where the party was being held and demanded they remove the "racist" costumes, after photos appeared on Twitter just hours earlier.

Experts are calling the flash protest of about 30 people rare, as it's unusual for social media users in Canada to mobilize as events are unfolding. But for one Toronto woman who took part, it was hard not to.

"They were reinforcing so many negative stereotypes," said Leslie McCue, 25. "It's degrading to our culture, to see women dressed in short felt costumes and low-cut tops, men with full headdresses holding alcohol, throwing tomahawks at each other and wearing multicoloured feathers."

The party was apparently organized by a Toronto couple to celebrate two birthdays.

The Rhino Bar and Restaurant played no part in organizing the party but faced the ire of many at the bar that night.

Photos of face-painted guests wielding tomahawks quickly appeared on Twitter, with the hashtag #racist or #racistparty. Soon, some were calling for action:

"Round dance flash mob at #TheRhinoBar #parkdale midnight tonight. Stand against racism #idlenomore."

Danielle O'Hanley said staff dismissed complaints about the partygoers, who were also reportedly making war calls and acting out fake scalpings.

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Some attendees of the Cowboys and Indians party that prompted Twitter users to visit the bar to try to break it up. PHOTO COURTESY VICTORIA VAUGHAN/FACEBOOK.COM

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An unconvincing 'truth.' Environment chair doubts global warming

Don't get him wrong: Norm Kelly, the chair of council's parks and environment committee, has no problem with Toronto thinking about how to prepare for the potential consequences of global warming. He's just doubtful that global warming is a thing.

Norm Kelly
RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City environmental officials and an expert consultant appeared at the committee on Tuesday to present a report that forecasts dramatic changes in Toronto's climate by 2040. Kelly asked them a series of pointedly skeptical questions.

He cited a Forbes pundit who writes articles with headlines like "Sorry global warming alarmists, the earth is cooling." He cited "one scientist" who argued that 20th century temperature trends didn't match trends in atmospheric carbon dioxide. He claimed, without much elaboration, that not a single 1970s scholar made an accurate prediction of the future.

"I wish the future could be as clear as the futurologists in all fields are suggesting," Kelly said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Marilyn Miss-me? Manson

Marilyn Manson delivered a heavy dose of industrial metal mayhem at the Oshawa Centre Tuesday night. Once a major chart-topper, the fading shock-rocker is touring to promote his first new album in three years, Born Villain, released in May of 2012. TOM PANDI/FOR METRO

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Will BB10 rescue RIM from the financial abyss?

Thorsten Heins, president and CEO of RIM, smiles after talking about the messenger capabilities of the new BlackBerry 10 at the BlackBerry Jam Americas conference in San Jose, Calif., last September. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

Research In Motion's much-delayed launch of the BB10 operating system has the potential to make or break the famous Canadian smartphone company. Metro takes a look, from three different perspectives, at what's at stake.

PART 1. Technology – Apps will be key

"We know the under-the-hood stuff for BlackBerry 10 is very solid," said Jonathan Geller, president and editor-in-chief of tech blog Boy Genius Report (BGR.com). "I think what it runs on, that is very important. I want to see some big partnerships with developers. I want to see that they have the top 100 apps from Android and iOS right out of the gate."

Many aspects of BB10 have already been announced, including partnerships with media companies that will give users access to music, TV shows and movies.

The Blackberry Hub is a new version of a traditional RIM feature, which combines all messages and communications into one location on the phone, said Geller.

The Blackberry Balance, which allows people to use the same phone for their professional and their personal lives while keeping the two separate, will be especially important for those whose workplaces have policies that block phone functions like third-party applications, the browser or the camera, he said.

"If it's done properly — and that's a theme with RIM, it's about their execution and ability to get these things off the ground — it'll be a huge success for them," said Geller, who added a similar feature is already available on some Android phones.

A phone with a physical QWERTY keyboard will follow their flagship all-touch screen phone within two months, said Geller.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

But, he says, even if RIM releases fantastic new phones, it may be too late for them to reclaim some of their past glory in the competitive smartphone market.

"It doesn't look too good, unfortunately, for a smaller company with fewer resources, but it's BlackBerry, so they have a loyal group of fans and hopefully they'll come out to support it," said Geller.

One of the key factors will be the price. "I think it would be a mistake to compete at the same price point as iPhone and Android and Windows," he said.

PART 2. Economics – The street divided

How the market will respond to the BB10 launch is anybody's guess.

Tim Long, an analyst with BMO Capital Markets, said he's expecting a "lacklustre" product that won't reverse RIM's declining fortunes.

"We think the product will be better than anything that RIM has had; we think it just catches them up to what's going on in the Apple and Android ecosystems," said Long, adding RIM's current subscriber base is now concentrated in emerging markets, where consumers will have a hard time upgrading to a $500-plus phone.

"We just think it's way too late, basically, to reverse the share losses that we've seen," said Long.

Long said the major problem is declining service revenue, the system access fee RIM collects from carriers for users with a BlackBerry data plan. RIM is shifting its functions off its own networks and is reducing its fees, which Long said could turn its previously positive cash flow negative.

On the other side of the spectrum is Scotia Capital, which recently upgraded the stock to a sector out-perfom, making the call that BB10 will be a success.

"At this stage it is hard to be neutral on RIM," reads a report from Scotia Capital's Gus Papageorgiou released Tuesday. "You either believe BB10 will be a success, in which case the company's earnings could be substantially higher than consensus estimates. Or you believe BB10 will fail to reverse the company's fortunes, in which case the company will likely have to put itself up for sale after posting disappointing sales and profitability.

"We believe that RIM has enough of a loyal installed base that will upgrade to BB10 and that the device will halt and reverse its market share slide in the U.S. Also, we believe the street's expectations are just too pessimistic," the report says.

Scotia Capital will be looking for a few key things: A U.S. price of $199, 100,000 apps and a release date by Feb. 14.

Live coverage of today's RIM launch at metronews.ca

PART 3. Politics – Canadian success story at crossroads

In countless speeches, our politicians have cited Research in Motion as a Canadian Tech success story, a narrative that could change soon, according to tech consultant Jesse Hirsh.

"This is a very crucial point in the company's history," he said. "For Canadians, it's both a political and an economic issue, because it is the type of Canadian champion we've turned to in the past — à la Nortel — but also because so many Canadians, whether they realize it or not, have part of their retirement wrapped up in the future of RIM."

Not only is Wednesday's launch the full public unveiling of the much-delayed operating system, it's also the introduction of a new business strategy for RIM because it's no longer the "de facto" choice for government and business, Hirsh said.

"I think there is still, both in the political class and among average Canadians, a belief that they can turn it around. A real hope that they can turn it around," he said.

In recent years, RIM has expanded its presence in emerging markets as its North American market share has declined. Over the past few years, however, RIM has lost a great deal of its reputation as the secure option, as the company is believed to have made deals with governments for access to the BlackBerry network in order to be allowed to see its phones in their countries.

"There was a time when the BBM and the BlackBerry Network was considered a pro-privacy, very efficient and secure means, of not just activists but of high-powered business folks as well," said Hirsh. "But because of various laws and legitimate pressure from governments, there's been an erosion of that trust."

RIM still offers the more secure enterprise service for business than Apple and Google are currently able to offer, and that remains an advantage, he said.

However, RIM would do well to make it clear to consumers which governments are asking for what kind of information from them, said Hirsh.

If RIM fortunes flag, it becomes more a target for takeover, and there are considerable political and even national security implications if a foreign company attempts to take it over, because of the government contracts and the technology itself, said Hirsh.

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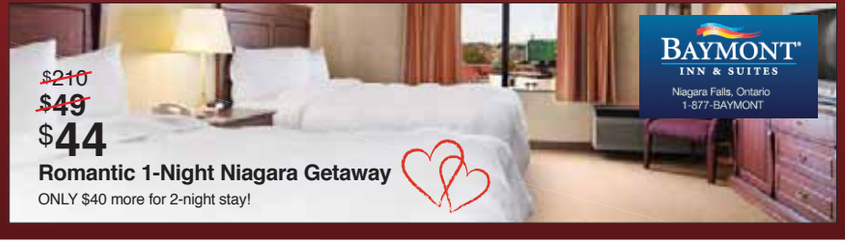

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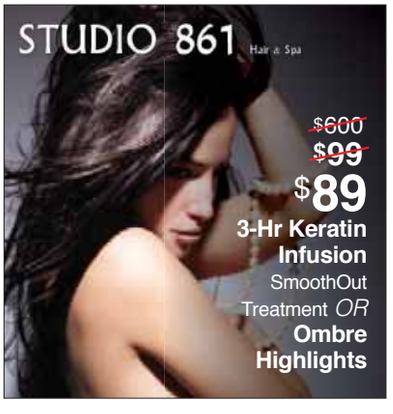

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Dickey fights child sex trafficking

Blue Jays star knuckleballer. R.A. Dickey spoke from Mumbai on Tuesday about his work with an organization that rescues girls from India's sex trade

Quoted

"I want to give my children a heart for humanity. The only way to do that is to get them outside of the bubble they live in and expose them to what real life is for a lot of people."

R.A. Dickey

After witnessing first-hand the plight of women and girls forced into India's sex trade in the slums of Mumbai, R.A. Dickey says he saw horror and despair, but also hope.

"The hope really lies in that paradigm where you walk among them," he said. "You walk among them and build relationships."

The Blue Jays' 38-year-old knuckleballer spoke Tuesday from Mumbai, where he has spent the last week working with Bombay Teen Challenge, a Christian charity that fights child-sex trafficking in India.

"These are lives that just don't have a voice," Dickey said over the phone in a conference call with reporters. "What we're trying to do here is give them a voice and a hope."

Dickey's partnership with Bombay Teen Challenge began last year, when as a member of the New York Mets he climbed Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money and awareness for the organization, which operates with a distinctly missionary bent and has been working in Mumbai's red-light district since 1990.

Dickey raised more than $100,000, according to the charity, which used the money to open a medical clinic in a building that had once been a brothel, a transformation Dickey called "incredibly poetic."

"It's like a beacon of light in a swamp."

Dickey said the most hopeful days of the trip were when he could see the results of the charity's work — the young women and girls they have rescued from the sex trade now living safe and happy lives.

"It's more than an orphanage," he said. "It's something that's meant to grow people out of what they've come from. It's to give them independence and a choice and a voice."

Dickey spoke of the charity's work in providing education, vocational training and also building confidence and self-esteem, as equally important as food and shelter.

"Hopefully the Bombay Teen Challenge is not the last stop," he said. "That's the hope. It's a stop along the way so they can have a life they can really embrace."

At one point Dickey was asked how to measure success against such a massive problem.

While estimates of the extent of human trafficking and sex slavery across the world can vary widely, India's federal police said last year that around 1.2 million children are believed to be enslaved in the sex trade.

"If the organization rescues one human life from that hell, then it has done its job in some way," Dickey said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Last year Blue Jays pitcher R.A. Dickey climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money and awareness for the Bombay Teen Challenge charity, which recently opened a medical clinic in Mumbai, in a building that was once a brothel, thanks to his efforts. Here he is pictured at top of Kilimanjaro. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Autobiography

Volunteer work 'speaks to my story'

A born-again Christian, R.A. Dickey chronicled his own story of redemption in last year's autobiography, Wherever I Wind Up: My Quest for Truth, Authenticity and the Perfect Knuckleball.

In the book, Dickey not only recounted his tumultuous career in baseball — which was given new life in 2010 when he became a rare master of the mysterious knuckleball — but also his traumatic childhood, which was marred by sexual abuse.

He said he was drawn to Bombay Teen Challenge because of how the organization's mission related to his own narrative. He added that he feels compelled to work to eradicate all forms of sexual exploitation.

"This speaks to my story," he said. "It's authentic for me because of my past experience."

The 2012 NL Cy Young winner, who figures to be the Jays' Opening Day starter, made the trip to Mumbai with his two daughters: 11-year-old Gabriel and nine-year-old Lila.

Dickey said his children are aware of his own experiences with sexual abuse.

"So they have a vernacular to be able to understand what sexual exploitation is and the healing that needs to happen from it."

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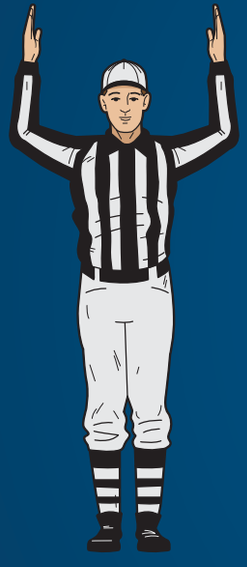
IT'S GOOD!



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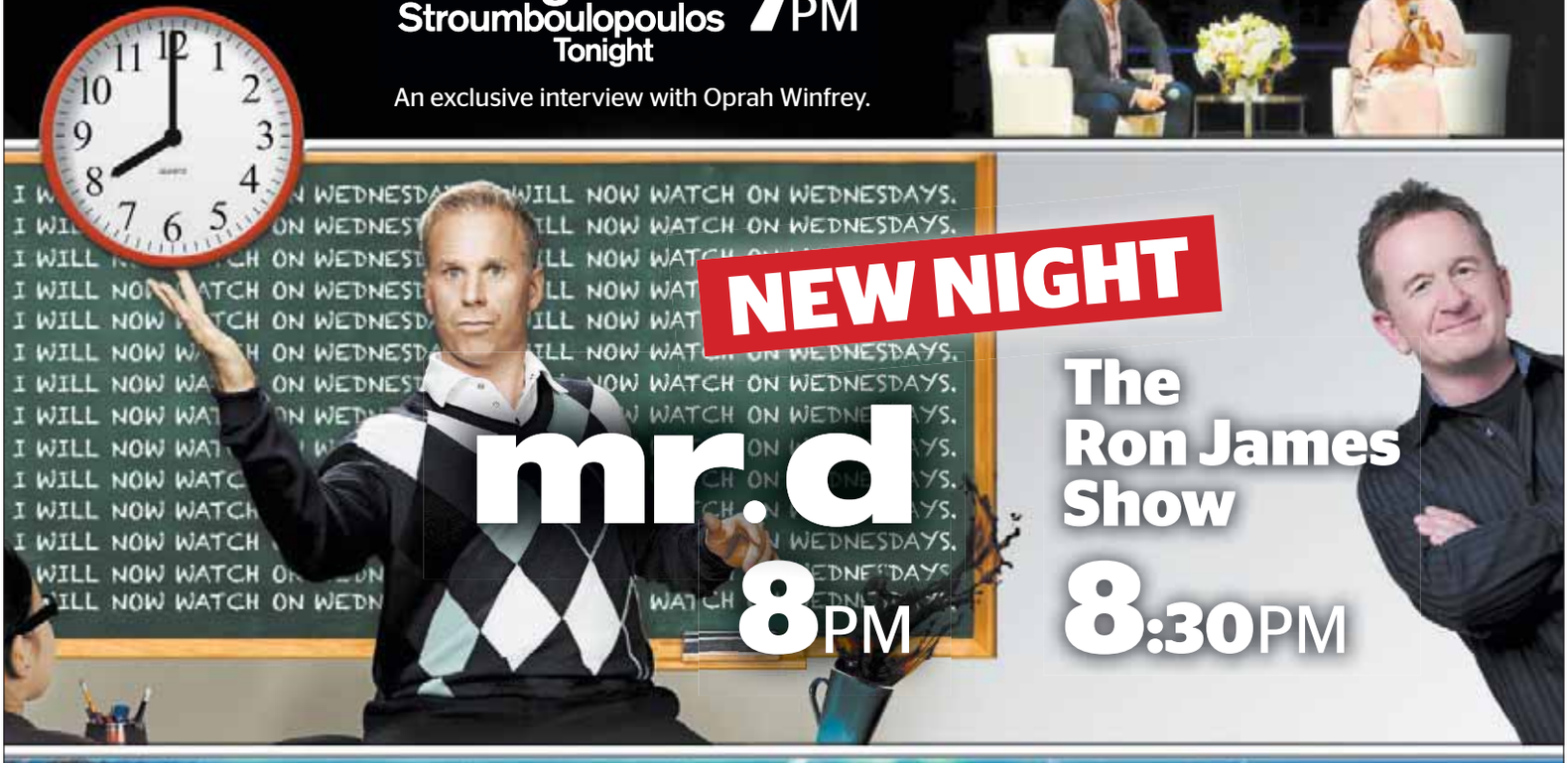
George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight **7PM**

An exclusive interview with Oprah Winfrey.



NEW NIGHT

mr.d **8PM**

The Ron James Show **8:30PM**

ALL-NEW

ARCTIC AIR **9PM**

CBC

Scores of dead bodies dumped in Syrian city

Nationwide violence. Various sources put the number killed on Tuesday at around 160

The bodies of at least 65 people were found in Syria's northern city of Aleppo Tuesday as the government and rebels blamed each other for the mass killing.

The bodies, almost all men in their 20s and 30s, were discovered in the contested neighbourhood of Bustan al-Qasr, according to Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Intense clashes between rebels and government troops have raged in the district since opposition forces launched an offensive on Aleppo in July.

Abdul-Rahman said the identities of the dead were unknown and it was not clear who was behind the killings. A government official told The Associated Press that the dead were residents of Bustan al-Qasr.

Syrian state TV said the men were killed by members of Jabhat al-Nusra, an al-Qaida-linked group. It said the men were killed after they demanded members of the group to leave their areas.

An activist group, the Local Co-ordination Committees, put the number of bodies at 80. It blamed government forces for the killing.

The same day, a bomb wounded Abdul-Razzak Qtini, once governor of the province of Hama, as he was in his car, said Abdul-Rahman and a neighbour of Qtini.

Earlier Tuesday, rebels stormed a government intelligence complex in the east, freeing at least 11 people held in a prison there, activists said.

Regime warplanes also carried several airstrikes on rebel positions in restive towns and villages around Damascus, the Observatory said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters demand blood for blood in India

Scores of protesters gathered near India's Parliament on Tuesday demanding the death penalty for six men accused in the fatal gang rape of a young woman on a bus in New Delhi last month. The protesters carried placards saying, "Give us Justice, Hang the Rapists," and shouted slogans before conducting a mock hanging of the men who are facing trial in a special court in New Delhi. Meanwhile, India's Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a petition to move the trial out of New Delhi. The petition argued that the men would not get a fair trial because of the charged atmosphere in the capital. ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nightclub. Cheap flares linked to lethal blaze

Penny-pinching by a band known for its onstage pyrotechnic displays may have cost more than 230 people their lives at a nightclub in southern Brazil, according to a police inspector leading the investigation into this weekend's deadly blaze.

"The flare lit was for outdoor use only, and the people who lit them know that," Inspector Marcelo Arigony told reporters at a news conference Tuesday. "They chose to buy those because they were cheaper than those that can be used indoors."

Arigony said that the outdoor flares cost a mere $1.25 a piece, compared to the $35 price tag for an indoor flare.

Police have said the club's ceiling was covered with an insulating foam made from a combustible material.

A malfunctioning fire extinguisher was not legal, Arigony said, and the club's operating licence had expired in August.

"Any child could have seen that this establishment should not have been open," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Head of Egypt's military fears nation may collapse

Protesters in Tahrir Square celebrate the capture of an armoured vehicle taken during clashes with security forces in Cairo. AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Burying their dead from Egypt's wave of violence, residents of the coastal city of Port Said vented their fury at their Islamist president on Tuesday, virtually declaring revolt against his rule.

Meanwhile, the head of the military warned Egypt may collapse under the weight of its turmoil.

Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's grave comments, his first since the crisis began, appeared to push for reconciliation and a solution to the protests and riots across much of the country the past six days.

His words fall heaviest on President Mohammed Morsi, who has failed to contain the unrest as protesters defied his declaration of a month-long state of emergency and curfew in Port Said and two neighbouring cities.

At least 60 people have been killed and hundreds injured since Thursday in clashes between police and protesters. Citizens are raging over what they call Islamist moves to monopolize power and the government's failure to address the country's many woes.

El-Sissi signalled the military would not move to put down protesters, saying troops are in a "grave predicament," forced to balance between "avoiding confrontation" with citizens and protecting state institutions.

In Cairo on Tuesday, rock-throwing protesters clashed with police firing tear gas for another day in battles that escalated after nightfall near Tahrir Square. The mayhem forced the nearby U.S. Embassy to suspend public services. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heart of resistance

Port Said's violence touched off Saturday when a court issued death sentences to 21 people over a bloody soccer riot a year ago.

- The verdicts were seen by residents as unfairly targeting Port Said.
- Many believe Morsi is trying to sideline the city because of a tradition of defying authority.

Kazakhstan

20 die in crash of Canadian plane

A Canadian-made airplane carrying at least 20 people crashed Tuesday in heavy fog near Kazakhstan's principal city, Almaty, killing all on board.

State news agency Kazinform cites an emergency official at the site as saying the plane was initially denied permission to land due to poor visibility.

The plane made a second approach, but lost its bearings and crashed a few kilometres from the airport. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan

One slain in attack on polio workers

Gunmen on a motorcycle shot and killed a police officer protecting polio workers during a UN-backed vaccination campaign in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, police said.

Some Islamic militants oppose the campaign, accusing health workers of acting as spies for the U.S. and claiming the vaccine is intended to sterilize Muslim children.

In a separate incident in the region, a man wounded a polio worker with an axe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India tour. Tories grilled over $1-million transport

The Conservative government is defending the $1-million cost of flying armoured vehicles to India for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, saying it was a security decision by the RCMP.

Harper's use of an armour-plated car and an SUV bearing Canadian licence plates during his November tour prompted New Democrats to formally inquire about the cost.

The final tally was produced this week as parliamentarians returned after six weeks off.

It cost a little more than $1 million for the use of the massive Canadian Forces C-17 Globemaster transport, which logged 48.5 hours of airtime flying the two vehicles to India.

Following a full assessment, "the RCMP determined there were no appropriate vehicles available in India," the government said.

An Indian government official confirmed during Harper's visit that it had offered an armoured Mercedes Benz for his use.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird responded that India has lost two prime ministers to assassination in the last 25 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Landslide. Rescue halted for buried quarry workers

The search was suspended Tuesday night for two Quebec quarry workers who are missing after an apparent landslide swept several vehicles into a pit nearly 100 metres deep.

Two trucks and an excavator were trapped in huge mounds of loose gravel at the bottom of the snowy crater in L'Epiphanie, Que., just east of Montreal.

A third worker managed to climb out of the excavator after the vehicle tumbled down the steep embankment. He suffered from frostbite, shock and minor injuries and was whisked to safety by helicopter, according to provincial police spokesman Benoit Richard.

Specialists working with rescue crews recommended suspending the search until Wednesday morning, Richard said. Search teams needed to be able to see how the gravel in the pit might shift while they work.

Repentigny police spokesman Bruno Marier says rescue workers planned to bring heavy search equipment down to the site in the morning.

Police could not explain the cause of the landslide. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Trial. FBI used reward and praise to trap teen terrorism suspect: Expert

FBI agents set a complicated psychological trap for a U.S. teenager by rewarding his compliance and praising his intellect on the way to luring him into a terrorism plot, a psychologist testified Tuesday as part of the teenager's defence.

Elizabeth Cauffman, a professor of psychology at the University of California-Irvine, testified that recordings of two undercover FBI agents posing as al-Qaida recruiters show subtle but clear attempts to convince Mohamed Mohamud that the path to violence was the correct one.

The testimony came in the second day of testimony from defence witnesses in Mohamud's federal trial. He is accused of attempting to detonate a weapon of mass destruction at a Portland Christmas tree-lighting ceremony in November 2010. The bomb was a fake provided by the FBI.

Mohamud's defence team is attempting to reframe evidence already presented by prosecutors in a new light. Prosecutors say recordings of Mohamud agreeing to buy toggle switches and barrels to carry explosives are evidence that he was a willing participant in the plot. But Cauffman said that Mohamud had been conditioned by a system of reward, praise and prodding by the agents to agree with anything they said, including buying supposed bomb-making materials.

"They gave him the sense (that) they were authority figures," Cauffman said. "Adolescents don't want to seem like wimps." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Development

Elizabeth Cauffman, a professor of psychology at the University of California-Irvine, testified about Mohamud.

- **17.** Mohamud's brain likely wasn't fully developed at age 17, when he began attempts to reach al-Qaida affiliates and drew the attention of the FBI, Cauffman testified.
- **18.** By age 18, Mohamud had fully-formed intellectual capabilities but was still emotionally immature, Cauffman said.

New gun control proposals not serious solution: NRA

National Rifle Association. Gun advocacy group official says background checks and bans are not the answer to reducing gun violence

Banning some assault weapons and requiring background checks for all firearms purchases are not a serious attempt to reduce gun violence, a top U.S. gun advocacy group official warned Tuesday as Congress geared up for the year's first hearing on the subject.

Wayne LaPierre, executive vice-president of the National Rifle Association, said the country must instead focus on boosting security at schools, enforcing existing gun laws and taking more steps to deny guns to people with mental illnesses.

"Law-abiding gun owners will not accept blame for the acts of violent or deranged criminals. Nor do we believe the government should dictate what we can lawfully own and use to protect our families," LaPierre said in testimony that he planned to deliver Wednesday at a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

LaPierre's statement, released Tuesday by the NRA, came nearly seven weeks after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., in which a gunman killed 20 children and six adults. The horrific slayings have revived the national debate over gun control, with President Barack Obama proposing a range of restrictions last week and members of Congress introducing legislation on the subject.

LaPierre's testimony was similar in substance but somewhat milder in tone than remarks he made less than two weeks after the mass shooting. Then, he attacked the "media machine" for blaming the gun industry for attacks like Newtown and said what was needed to prevent the next massacre were armed guards and police in every school. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I know it's hard. It doesn't mean I shouldn't try."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, said of gun legislation prospects.

People walk from the U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument in Washington Saturday during a march for gun control. SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Change. Boy Scouts could face division, defections if no-gays policy lifted

The Boy Scouts of America's proposed move away from its no-gays membership policy has outraged some longtime admirers, gratified many critics and raised intriguing questions about the iconic organization's future.

Will the Scouts now be split between troops with gay-friendly policies and those that keep the ban? What will a National Jamboree be like if it brings together these disparate groups with conflicting ideologies?

A top official of the Southern Baptist Convention, whose conservative churches sponsor hundreds of Scout units that embrace the ban, was among those alarmed that the BSA is proposing to allow sponsoring organizations to decide for themselves whether to admit gays as scouts and adult leaders.

"We understand that we are now a minority, that it is not popular to have biblical values, not popular to take stands that seem intolerant," said Frank Page, president of the SBC's executive committee. "This is going to lead to a disintegration of faith-based values."

Page had been scheduled to speak in July at the Scouts' National Jamboree, and he's now apprehensive there could be conflict as troops with differing policies converge. Asked if he might decide not to speak, Page said he would pray about it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mixed reaction

The change garnered mixed emotions.

- Of the more than 110,000 scouting units across the U.S., nearly 70 per cent are chartered by religious organizations. Some were pleased by the proposed change, others were troubled.
- Triggering the angst was the Boy Scouts' announcement Monday that it was considering replacing its long-standing ban on gays with a policy that would let troop sponsors make their own decisions.

Flying Wallenda finds way to beat the traffic

Aerialist Nick Wallenda walks the high wire 200 feet over U.S. 41, a highway in Sarasota, Fla., without a safety harness on Tuesday. The Sarasota City Commission allowed him to do the stunt without a tether. Wallenda, part of the famous Flying Wallendas family of aerialists, wore a tether for the first time last summer when he walked across Niagara Falls because the television network that was paying for the performance insisted on it. DAN WAGNER, SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ashbury College

2 Ottawa teachers face disciplinary hearing over sex assault in Boston

Two Ottawa private school teachers are defending themselves against allegations they refused to report a sexual assault on a class trip to Boston in 2007.

Alyssa Novick and Ian Middleton, teachers at Ashbury College, are in Toronto for a disciplinary hearing at the Ontario College of Teachers. If a panel finds them guilty of misconduct the teachers could lose their certifications. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sept. 11, 2001

9-11 fund makes 1st payments to sick responders

A special fund set up by Congress is making its first payments to people who got sick after being exposed to toxic dust at the World Trade Center following the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks.

A group of 15 first-responders with respiratory problems will get awards from the 9-11 victim compensation fund. Their payouts range from $10,000 to $1.5 million, but it will be years before the group sees all that money. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Metro reporter discovers first-hand what it's like to be buried under snow

MATT KIELTYKA
Metro in Vancouver

Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association's Sadie pokes her head through the snow during a rescue simulation in Revelstoke, B.C., on Jan. 8. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

The only sound I hear is that of my own body breathing in and out.

It's been that way since I climbed into a snug hole carved into the side of Revelstoke Mountain Resort in B.C., and flashed a "thumbs up" sign to ski patrol.

As I lay there in the fetal position, the patroller covered my one escape with large slabs of snow and ice.

"Are you OK? I'm going to fill in the cracks with snow now," he says.

The outside world is silent for the next 15 minutes, although everyone on the surface says they keep trying to communicate with me.

I can't tell.

Today, I'm put in the role of an avalanche victim.

• • •

Al Roberts and his faithful companion Sadie, a seven-year-old Belgian-shepherd cross, bide their time in the kennel on top of the ski hill when Roberts hears "go ahead" over the static on his radio.

Sadie knows it's time to work.

She leaps out of her cage and barks excitedly as Roberts steps into his ski bindings and starts descending the mountain.

In a few minutes, they'll be at the site of a simulated avalanche where a "victim" is buried underneath a pile of snow.

To the naked eye, it's impossible to tell where I'm buried.

Sadie impatiently paces back and forth as they reach the bottom of the run.

"Are you ready to go to work?" Roberts works Sadie up into a frenzy. "Search!"

• • •

The sound of my breathing is joined by a faint rustle overhead.

Although I'm not in real danger, my spirit soars on a gust of optimism as rustling turns to scratching, and scratching turns to the distinct sound of paws digging through snow and hurried panting.

Bits of snow come free and sprinkle down on me as the sounds get louder.

Suddenly an entire block comes down and I see Sadie's wet nose poke through the opening.

She barks, grabs the old, raggedy sweater I'm holding in my left hand and starts tugging at it, helping me as I claw my way out of the cold prison with my free arm.

Roberts, his boots crunching on fresh powder as he races toward us, keeps Sadie motivated.

"What did you find? There's a good girl, good girl."

• • •

It was a minute and 30 seconds from the time Roberts shouted, "Search!" to the moment Sadie homed in on my scent and started digging for me.

Sadie, along with her owner Al Roberts, have been CARDA validated for five years, and in that time, they've honed their rescue skills. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

DAY 3
THE RESCUERS

Tomorrow: Staying Alive
Metro takes you to school on how to survive in treacherous terrain.

Roberts explains that he and Sadie, like all members of the Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association (CARDA), are able to cover an area six times that of a team of human searchers in just a fraction of the time when responding to an avalanche.

The effectiveness of rescue dogs can't be understated.

"When you're buried, every second counts," is the tagline used on CARDA's website.

Once on scene, Roberts' job is to see which direction the wind is coming from and send Sadie into it.

"The scent of the person comes out of the snow just like smoke would out of a hole. It takes the path of least resistance, out of the snow and into the wind," he explains.

"Once the dog gets into the scent cone, they can pinpoint where it's coming from. You can see their head just snap back and you can tell there's something there. They become more intent on finding where the scent is coming from, and as soon as they find it in the ground they just dive right in."

And anyone buried underneath is usually glad they do.

Avalanche control forecaster Troy Leahy and his rescue dog, Penny, are two of the most

Exclusively online

Visit metronews.ca/buriedalive for more from Avalanche Week, including what happened when Sadie the rescue dog dug our reporter out of an avalanche.

Sadie
MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Veteran Revelstoke Search and Rescue volunteers Zuzana Driediger, right, and Buck Corrigan say self-rescue is the norm when avalanches hit in the backcountry. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Search and rescue volunteers

When a fatal avalanche strikes in the B.C. backcountry, it's search and rescue volunteers who face the grim task of recovering the bodies.

Situated in what is known as the "powder belt," and boasting the most vertical ski resort in North America, Revelstoke is home to a huge contingent of highly experienced search and rescuers.

Buck Corrigan, a veteran manager at Revelstoke Search and Rescue (SAR) who helps co-ordinate a team of about 60, says despite the high seasonal risk, avalanche calls to his office aren't that common. Thanks to the proliferation of knowledge and more people than ever carrying avalanche kits, he gets perhaps one or two per season.

"We went to one last year and it was over before we got there," he says. "The local group had done a self-rescue, and there was one fatality and by the time we got there it was over. They had recovered the fatality.

"In this part of the world, it's just accepted that you don't go out without a certain amount of equipment."

When an avalanche call does come in, an automated call gets sent out to the experts, day or night, who then rally at a muster station. The SAR team will include a technician to do a risk assessment, paramedics, avalanche rescue dogs, and a helicopter and heli-sling technicians.

Zuzana Driediger is a part-time Revelstoke SAR volunteer with 20 years' experience. She says some calls are more stressful than others — such as the Size 3.5 avalanche (out of a zero-to-five scale) that killed two men in 2010 while 200 snowmobilers were attending an

the rescue

familiar faces for skiers at Revelstoke Mountain Resort in B.C. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

pros at keeping calm in crisis

Quoted

"You kind of accept it that that's part of the game in the mountains."

Zuzana Driediger, Revelstoke Search and Rescue volunteer, acknowledges fatalities can take a toll in her line of work

annual competition at nearby Boulder Mountain.

She recalled that at one point crews had to stop a man from building a bonfire and pouring gas on it, because the smoke was impeding rescue helicopters. She spent three days on the scene with her avalanche rescue dog, Hero, who used his keen sense of smell to help ensure the site was clear and no one was still buried.

"I personally try to stay calm and collected and just look at the big picture and focus on safety first and what's important," she said of how she copes in a crisis.

"At the time I'm not very emotional. I just focus on the task at hand, but sometimes, yeah, it does affect you later on if there's fatalities involved, but you kind of accept it that that's part of the game in the mountains."

Emergency Management BC reimburses all volunteer search and rescue groups for the costs of each rescue, while community organizations help raise money for new equipment.

KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER

K9 heroes

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

The CARDA dogs of Revelstoke

1 Penny

Four-year-old Labrador/ golden retriever cross

Handler: Tory Leahy
Bio: While Leahy, an avalanche control forecaster at Revelstoke Mountain Resort, is out ensuring the ski hills are safe for the public, Penny usually isn't too far behind.

2 Hero

Five-year-old German shepherd

Handler: Zuzana Driediger
Bio: As part of the Revelstoke search and rescue team, Hero's most notable mission was responding to the aftermath of the 2010 avalanche at Boulder Mountain during a snowmobiling event that involved more than 200 sledders.

3 Sadie

Seven-year-old Belgian shepherd cross

Handler: Al Roberts
Bio: A well-trained dog with a keen nose, Sadie is also a fan favourite on the slopes, especially when surprised skiers watch her jump onto a chair lift on her own.

About CARDA

Born out of a loose, but long-standing partnership between the RCMP, Parks Canada and the ski industry, the Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association officially formed in 1982 as a non-profit volunteer organization. There are currently 28 validated CARDA teams (made up of an owner and his/her dog) active in British Columbia, Alberta and Yukon Territory. Teams must be re-validated each year and must attend a winter training course at least every second year.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Elizabeth II. Queen not likely to abdicate: Experts

Queen Elizabeth is not expected to step aside anytime soon to allow Prince Charles to begin his reign. GETTY IMAGES

The spectacle of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands stepping down in April at age 75 so her 45-year-old son can become king is sparking some speculation in Britain about whether Queen Elizabeth II might follow suit so her eldest son, Prince Charles, can start his reign.

Not likely, experts say.

Commentators noted that Elizabeth, 86, seems to be in excellent health and has said in the past that she regards being queen as a "job for life." Charles, 64, has been heir to the throne since he was three.

Robert Lacey, who has written several books about the British monarchy, said Beatrix's decision "would reinforce (Elizabeth's) feeling that the Dutch don't know what monarchy is about," he said. "The crown is a job for life in the British system."

Lacey said the idea of abdicating is particularly unpleasant for Elizabeth because her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated in 1936 so he could marry Wallis Simpson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Immigration. John McCain blows hot, cold, hot again

Three years ago, as mid-term congressional elections approached in the United States, John McCain blamed home invasions and murders in the American southwest on illegal immigrants, urging federal officials to build "the danged fence" to keep them out.

Apparently nervous about a primary challenge from an anti-immigration Tea Party candidate eyeing his job, McCain's sudden hard line represented a dramatic turnaround from the Arizona senator's record in Congress, where he championed unsuccessful immigration-reform bills.

What a difference a presidential election makes — one in which the overwhelming majority of Hispanics cast their ballots for Barack Obama, despite the president's own inaction on immigration reform.

McCain is now serving as one of the Republicans' most vocal proponents for a sweeping immigration overhaul. He was one of the key architects of a bipartisan deal reached in the U.S. Senate this week that calls for a path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We cannot have, forever, 11 million people living in the shadows in this country."

Sen. John McCain

Timbuktu: Where books burned and music was banned

Priceless documents destroyed. Extremists terrorized the city, now in control of Malian and French troops

A 16-year-old boy sings verses from crumbling ancient Islamic manuscripts in a mud-walled house in Timbuktu, Mali, in this 2004 file photo. Islamist extremists have torched a library containing historic manuscripts, destroying an unknown number of the priceless documents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Timbuktu, the fabled desert city where retreating Muslim extremists destroyed ancient manuscripts, was a centre of Islamic learning hundreds of years before Columbus landed in the Americas.

It is not known how many of the priceless documents were destroyed by al-Qaida-linked fighters who set ablaze a state-of-the-art library, which was built with South African funding to conserve the brittle, camel-hide-bound manuscripts.

News of the destruction came on Monday from the mayor of Timbuktu.

Tens of thousands more manuscripts — no one knows how many — were kept at other libraries and private homes in Timbuktu. Some are believed to have been hidden from the Islamist fighters, who began their desecration of the city by systematically razing the 15th-century mausoleums of several Sufi saints in July.

Islamist extremists decimated tourism in 2011 when three Europeans were taken hostage. In April 2012, Tuareg nationalist rebels seized control of Timbuktu from government troops. A day later Islamist insurgents elbowed their way into the city. They banned music, insisted women cover themselves and began carrying out public executions and amputations.

On Tuesday, Timbuktu was in control of French and Malian troops, including some 250 French paratroopers dropped from the sky.

The extremists melted into the desert without firing a shot. Townspeople were jubilant at the city's liberation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. John Kerry

Obama's pick for top diplomatic job approved

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly confirmed President Barack Obama's choice of Sen. John Kerry to be secretary of state, with Republicans and Democrats praising him as the ideal successor to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The vote Tuesday was 94-3 and came just hours after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the man who has led the panel for the past four years.

Kerry could be sworn in as early as Wednesday. A welcoming ceremony is planned at the State Department on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gay marriage

French Parliament debating bill

The French government has presented a divisive plan to legalize gay marriage and adoption to Parliament for debate.

President Francois Hollande's "marriage for everyone" pledge has seen hundreds of thousands of supporters and opponents take to the Paris streets in separate demonstrations in the past two weeks.

Concessions have already been made to opponents, with plans to replace "father" and "mother" with "parent 1" and "parent 2" in official documents being ditched for straight couples.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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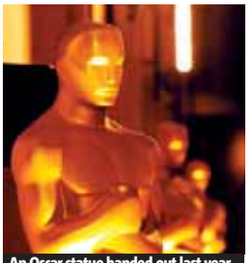
Oscar's new Canadian connection

Ceremonial hardware. This year, an Ontario firm is in charge of making little gold men


An Oscar statue handed out last year.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Every year at the Academy Awards, the big question is: Who does the Oscar go to?

This year, there's a new one to trip up trivia buffs: Where does the Oscar come from?

For the first time in its venerable history, Hollywood's most prestigious accolade is being manufactured under the watch of a Canadian company.

St. Regis Crystal, of Markham, purchased Oscar's Chicago-based manufacturer R.S. Owens last December and with it, R.S. Owens' 30-year tradition of making the internationally recognized gold-plated statues.

Company decisions now come from southern Ontario, but the Oscars are still being made at the Chicago foundry, says St. Regis vice president Jeff Firkser.

"We purchased the company for its talent and for the stature they have in Chicago," Firkser says of R.S. Owens, which also makes trophies for the Emmy Awards and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Awards. "This particular award is a cast award and it's not going to change. It's going to always be done there."

That guarantee was key to sealing the new partnership, says the president of R.S. Owens, Scott Siegel.

Firkser says he had never seen an Oscar up close until taking over R.S. Owens. "The weight of it is quite surprising. It's a lot heavier than it looks," he says of the trophy.

At its core is britannium, a pewter-like alloy that is poured by hand into a steel mould. The figure is ground, sanded and polished, and then plated several times — first with copper, then nickel, then silver and finally, heavy 24-karat gold.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airplane food

High tea: BA's Altitude blend is made for mid-air

British Airways and Twinings say they have developed a better cuppa, one that adjusts for flying altitudes and laws of physics that can affect the taste of tea in the sky.

Dubbed the Altitude blend by BA staffers, the tea is supposed to make up for the fact that lower humidity on an aircraft can reduce our sense of taste by as much as 30 per cent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Restaurant reservations

OpenTable buys Foodspotting

Restaurant reservations site OpenTable says it is buying Foodspotting, a mobile app for finding and sharing photos of food, for about $10 million US to help it personalize its service. OpenTable Inc. lets people book reservations online, or through its mobile app, without having to talk to a person. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A screengrab of recommended dishes at Toronto eateries on Foodspotting.com.
SCREENGRAB: FOODSPOTTING.COM

Consumer confidence. Canucks look on sunny side

Canadian and U.S. consumers appear to be heading in opposite directions in terms of their confidence in the economy going forward — it's up in Canada and down south of the border.

The Conference Board of Canada's survey on consumer confidence in January shows the index rebounding strongly by 5.1 points to 83.1, the highest level since June 2011 and the first increase in four months. A similar survey by the Conference Board in the United States found confidence among consumers there plummeted this month to 58.6, the lowest level since November 2011.

The results are baffling given that most economists believe the U.S. is on the verge of a relatively strong economic performance in 2013, while the expectations for Canada — while not negative — are more modest. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gates cooperates with the Germans

German Development Minister Dirk Niebel, left, and Microsoft founder Bill Gates speak to the media after talks at the Development Ministry on Tuesday in Berlin. Through his charity foundation, Gates is cooperating with the German government and private companies on sustainable food programs in Africa. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

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Everyone Makes a Mark

Roast renaming

Give that blonde a makeover

The days of ordering up a tall blonde at your local Starbucks may be drawing to an end. The company is looking for suggestions to rename its blonde roast, currently called Veranda Blend, through a Canada-wide online contest that runs until Feb. 10.

A few of the suggestions so far include Smooth Silky Blonde, Temptress, Steamy and Morning Kiss. On the not-so-racy side of things, there's Yellow Mellow, Winter Flurry, Morning Light and Liquid Gold.

The winning moniker will go on Canadian menus and packaging. Judges will choose three finalists based on appropriateness, feasibility and originality and creativity.

Those entries will be posted online in late February for a public vote.

Blonde roasts now account for 12 per cent of brewed coffee purchased at Starbucks stores in Canada, where people drink twice as much of the light stuff as Americans.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jobless youth costs $10.7B in lost wages

Graduate blues. Those entering labour market during periods of high unemployment can take years to catch up

The rise in youth unemployment in Canada will cost an estimated $10.7 billion in lost wages over the next three years, a report by TD Economics estimates.

The "scarring" effect — the period of underemployment that follows — could cost another $12.7 billion in lost earnings over the next 18 years, the report also predicts.

The study, called "Assessing the long-term cost of youth unemployment," said the impact on the Canadian economy is relatively low compared to some European countries.

"Of course, for the people suffering from unemployment, the impact is significant," said TD senior economist Martin Schwerdtfeger.

A Canadian study found that in a typical recession — defined as a rise in unemployment rates by five percentage points — college graduates suffered a nine per cent loss in wages in the first year. That faded to zero within 10 years.

A U.S. study found a one per cent increase in unemployment led to a 4.4 per cent loss in wages for college graduates initially, a gap that took 17 years to close.

"Stubbornly high unemployment is one of the legacies of the 2008 financial crisis and the recession that followed it," Schwerdtfeger wrote in his report.

Young Europeans have been hit the hardest, with unemployment rates for those between the ages of 15 and 24 years ranging from a low of eight per cent in Germany to a high of 58 per cent in Greece and 57 per cent in Spain.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

14%

Youth unemployment in Canada has hovered around 14 per cent for the past two years, roughly double the average

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Hey! Where'd Beijing go?

A cyclist passes a flag-raising ceremony during severe pollution at Tiananmen Square on Tuesday in Beijing. Thick, off-the-scale smog shrouded eastern China for the second time in about two weeks, forcing airlines to cancel flights because of poor visibility and prompting Beijing to temporarily shut factories and curtail fleets of government cars. The U.S. embassy reported an hourly peak level of PM2.5 — tiny particulate matter that can penetrate deep into the lungs — at 526 micrograms per cubic metre, or "beyond index." Over a 24-hour period, readings were more than 20 times higher than World Health Organization safety levels. FENG LI/GETTY IMAGES

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The following List of names and last known addresses, are people whose goods in storage will be sold on Wednesday February 6th, 2013 from 12:00 PM due to non-payment of storage rent. The online auction will be conducted on: Youbidlocal.com

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4) ADRIENNE GARTH
49 WINDERMERE CRT. FL 1, BRAMPTON, Ontario, L6X 2L5
5) RAYANN ALEXANDER
6104 VILLAGE CREST, NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario L2G 7M3
6) VESNA RADOSAVLJEVIC
1331 GLANNA RD. #79, PICKERING, Ontario L1V 2Y4
7) KAREEM REYNOLDS
40 TWELFTH ST. #6, ETOBICOKE, Ontario, M8V 3G7
8) DUANE ROLLINS
411-34 ST DENNIS DR., TORONTO, Ontario, M3C 1G6
9) ALEX DUMAS
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10) DARCY MUNSHAW
16 AVON AVE., TORONTO, Ontario, M6N 4X8
11) THOMAS DODGE
131 LOWTHER AVE., TORONTO, Ontario, M5R 1E4
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Market Minute

DOLLAR 99.76¢ (+0.41¢)

TSX 12,830.56 (+14.64)

OIL $97.57 US (+$1.13)

GOLD $1,660.80 US (+$7.90)

Natural gas: $3.26 US (-3¢)
Dow Jones: 13,954.42 (+72.49)

GO LEGLESS AND GET AHEAD THIS YEAR

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Back in the bad, old days when everyone in Canada was nearly Scottish, there was one New Year, Jan. 1, and that was it.

Today's infinitely more diverse (and interesting) times mean you have multiple opportunities to slough off the old year — like the skin of a snake — and begin anew.

And wouldn't you know? Coming up, it's the Year of the Snake for followers of the lunar calendar, on Feb. 10.

The snake is the sixth sign in the Chinese zodiac, and snake years happen in intervals of 12. Last year was a dragon year, which you might argue is a more impressive member of the reptile family, but don't sell the snake short.

2013

Never stab a snake in the back, because a snake never forgets and always gets the last word.

The snake (in short) is good at and for business. This year is specifically a year of the water snake, which means, according to various Chinese astrologers, those born under the sign are influential, insightful, intellectual, motivated and determined to succeed. Snakes keep to themselves, don't talk much, and are smarter than you. When you're together in the boardroom, you really want to know what they're thinking, but haven't the faintest idea.

Snakes make great scientists and investigators. They're relentless.

Never stab a snake in the back, because a snake never forgets and always gets the last word.

What's sauce for the snake is swamp water for the Tiger, i.e. yours truly. Tigers and snakes are on completely different paths. If you have a snake in the house, you will never go hungry. If you have a tiger curled up in front of the fireplace, you're safe. Just don't expect them to get along.

Knowing your snakes from your tigers can be useful for making bold predictions about the coming year. According to geomancer and philosopher Paul Ng of Richmond Hill, Ont., the Year of the Snake will be a good year for water-oriented businesses such as fishing, but also a good year for metal and earth industries, such as real estate, except in Scarborough, Mississauga and Vancouver. It will be a bad year for communications and the Internet, so unload that Apple stock.

(This is a good time to issue the following disclaimer: do not, under any circumstances, make any decisions based on opinions expressed in this column, ever. Remember that it's written by a tiger, not a snake.)

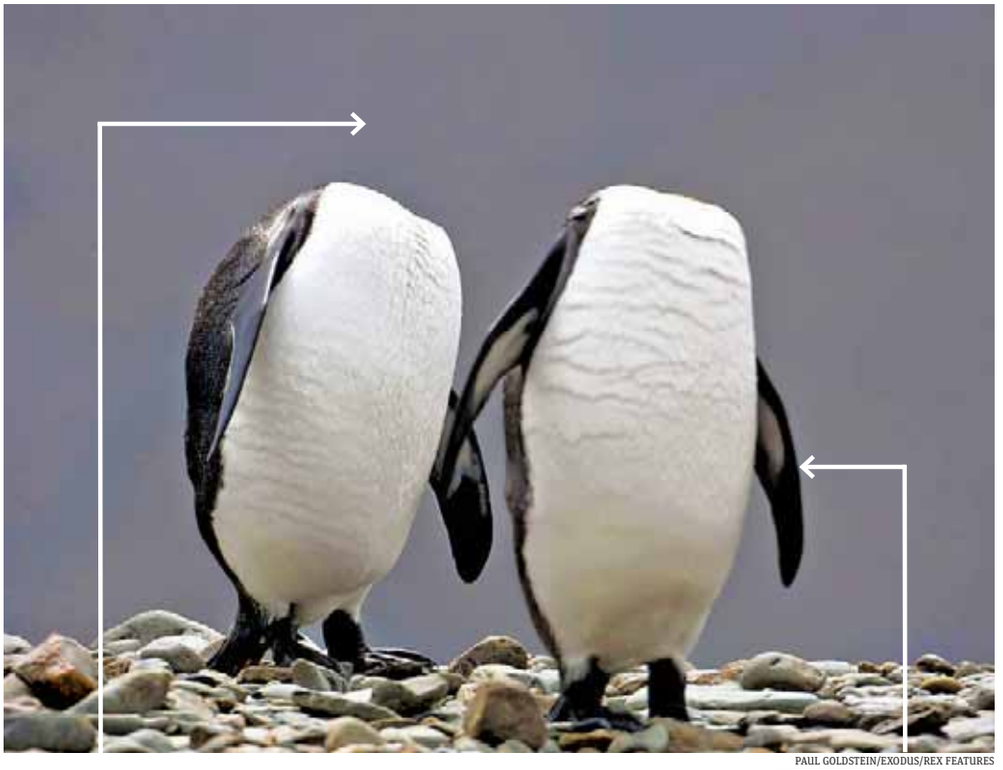
Look, if you're still not ready to make your new year's resolutions, just give the snake a pass and go to the next new year on the horizon, Nowruz, or New Day, the ancient and durable Persian New Year, which is celebrated on the spring equinox, March 21. Ancient because it goes back to 550 BC and durable because it has survived even the Ayatollahs' attempt to suppress it.

And every year, in every land, and for everyone, what's old is new again.

Gung Hay Fat Choy, when it comes!

It takes a real snake to make a bold new year's prediction. GETTY IMAGES

Heads off to you, Pingu



PAUL GOLDSTEIN/EXODUS/REX FEATURES

Wildlife photography

Not a good time to lose one's head

It appears that penguins can be camera-shy, too.

Wildlife photographer Paul Goldstein took this amusing image of two seemingly headless king penguins at St. Andrews Bay on the British overseas territory of South Georgia. As it turned out, the flightless birds were bending their heads backwards using their double-jointed necks.

METRO

Photographer's viewpoint

"Initially I was just glad to be able to isolate a couple of these to photograph. It is so difficult normally as there are a quarter of a million others to clutter the background."

Paul Goldstein, photographer and tour guide for travel company Exodus

Never get a head

Keeping composure is tough to do

The London, England-based photographer recalls his encounter with the playful pair.

"One penguin had reverted to normal by the time I got the camera up but then it hid its head again, and its mate did it, too," Goldstein said. "I just managed to keep the camera still enough as I was laughing so much — to them it is a perfectly normal manoeuvre, but to me, not so."

METRO

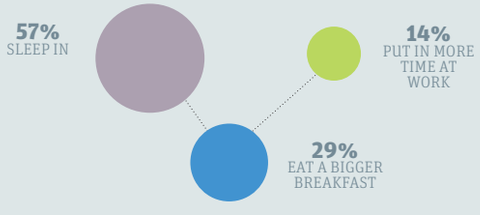
South Georgia Island

- **Location.** Sits 1,390 kilometres to the east of the Falkland Islands.
- **Population.** Approximately 2.23 million pairs of king penguins, with numbers rising. No human population.
- **Life.** Cold, highly-oxygenated waters promote marine life. Krill, the shrimp-like crustaceans at the base of the food chain, thrive here.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What would you do with extra time shaved from your daily commute?



Twitter

@BrandonMarte: RT @ohlovefacts: never let the fear of striking out, keep you from playing the game.

@happyhooliganxo: RT @AllessMarzilli: Balotelli off to play for AC Milan, ahhhhyaaaa

@the_real_DJF17: Hey @MCFC goodbye Balo, goodbye titles, hope you enjoy winning nothing again #Balotelli

@kayakinstructor: It's January and #Toronto is getting a thunderstorm. How weird is that?

@afrocarter: TEN DAYS until the @MusicCityN festival steamrolls through #Toronto. I'll be doing my part and performing @ Izakaya Sushi House Feb 8th!

@renasangha: @VanCanucks watching from #Toronto

metro

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STOP HAIR LOSS

for MEN and for WOMEN

#1 SELLING IN CANADA

Hair Grow Technology's Bio-Fen® product line is continually moving forward! We are introducing our two latest versions; **Bio-Fen® Plus for Men** and **Bio-Fen® Plus for Women**. These products have been assigned Natural Product Numbers (NPN's) by Health Canada.

We recognize that both men and women experience androgenic alopecia (AGA, or male / female pattern baldness) and have made some improvements to the original formulation based on the latest science to address their specific needs. You will notice that we now have additional complementary (Health Canada Approved) health claims on each product.

How does Bio-Fen® PLUS work?

We are bringing you two new products with **double** the number of capsules and **triple** the number of health claims for men and **four times** the number of health claims for women.

As in the previous formulation, the fenugreek seed extract in both new formulas reduces excess blood lipid levels (hyperlipidemia). Fenugreek contains β-sitosterol, an active plant sterol, which has been shown to inhibit 5-alpha-reductase activity – the enzyme responsible for converting excess testosterone to *DHT* (which is the primary molecule that causes hair loss). The SDG (secoisolariciresinol diglucoside) from flax lignans in both formulas also decreases excess cholesterol - the building block of testosterone. Based on new research on the rate of metabolism of SDG in flax lignans (8-12 hours on average), the dosage in both products has been revised from once a day to twice a day for optimum results.

Twice the Strength! Twice the Power!

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men:

As before, the saw palmetto extract inhibits the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, and this action slows down the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (or DHT) – the overabundance of which causes the miniaturization of hair follicles. This activity of the saw palmetto also helps to relieve the urinary symptoms of mild to moderate BPH for men.

The saw palmetto that originally was an extract standardized to 45% free fatty acids, esters, and sterols while the new formula is a 4:1 extract to support the BPH claim. The product still contains these molecules for hair loss, but they are now at proprietary amounts based on our research so that the competition cannot duplicate our formula.

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men will also help to:

- ***Relieve the urologic symptoms associated with mild to moderate benign prostatic hyperplasia - BPH** (e.g. weak urine flow, incomplete voiding, frequent daytime and night time urination).*
- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels / hyperlipidemia.***

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women

The women's formula is almost the same as the men's formula. The mechanisms and results for the women formula is the same. The only difference is it contains silicon and iron instead of saw palmetto. Silicon has been shown to contribute to hair shaft strength and thus healthy hair growth. It also contains iron which helps prevent iron deficiency. A number of studies have related sub-clinical iron deficiency in women to diffuse hair loss/alopecia.

The increased amount of SDG and other revisions to the regulations allow us to make some additional health claims for *Bio-Fen® Plus for Women.*

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women will also help to:

- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels/hyperlipidemia***
- ***Prevent iron deficiency.***
- ***Metabolize carbohydrates, fats and proteins.***

How long must I use Bio-Fen® Plus?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or the rate of hair loss is decreased. Anyone experiencing new growth should see it within four months. In some people the original pigmentation may come back. Once you stop completely your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started. However, some people may be able to go with a lower maintenance dose.

What is the quality of Bio-Fen® Plus for Men?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men is manufactured in Canada according to quality assurance specifications called Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and the finished product prior to sale.

Hair Grow Technology (Bio-Fen® Plus) is a progressive company - we continually seek out the latest research on bioactive ingredients, and on regulatory updates in the natural health products industry.

See our website to locate your nearest store that carries *Bio-Fen® Plus.*

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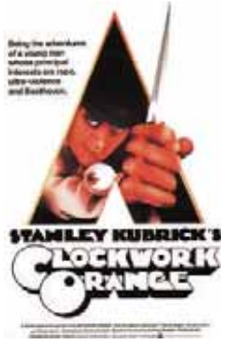
Each coupon is valid for one bottle of Bio-Fen® Plus for Men or Bio-Fen® Plus for Women. Valid one coupon per bottle. Coupon is void when reproduced or altered in anyway. Coupon expires on March 31, 2013. Retailers must submit all coupons for reimbursement to Hair Grow Technology within 30 days after the expiration date. Redeemed coupons must be accompanied with a copy of the purchased receipt.

Cineplex resurrects classic films in high-def

Some films cited as classics can be enjoyed as historical artifacts, more appreciated for their aesthetics and less for their urgent, contemporary effect. But the spate of motion pictures selected to be screened as part of Cineplex's fourth annual The Great Digital Film Festival are rare in that they are indeed landmark movies and play as good today — if not better — than they did in their respective eras. Running at select Cineplex theatres from Feb. 1 to 7, the Great Digital Film Festival programmers are spotlighting sumptuous new high-def prints. Here are a few of Metro's primo picks.

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca



A Clockwork Orange (1971)

As disturbing and viscerally alive as ever, Kubrick's razor-sharp satire is a must see big-screen experience. Malcolm McDowell is ultraviolence personified, Wendy Carlos' music still chills and the director's trademark dissonance has never been more prominent.

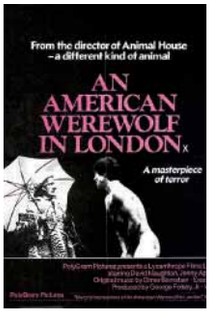
Exclusively online

Cynthia Loyst, a host of InnerSPACE, breaks down genres you don't want to miss at metronews.ca.

Jaws (1975)

The film that sparked the template for the contemporary Hollywood blockbuster, Spielberg's iconic and terrifying chomp on Peter Benchley's killer shark book is a perfect film, from stem to stern (of the Orca, natch).

From the performances (Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw, Richard Dreyfuss) to John Williams' double bass note driven score, JAWS is an epic, genre defying gem.



An American Werewolf in London (1981)

"Stay clear of the moors." A wiser warning never spoken in cinema and it's a shame the heroes of John Landis's maverick comedic shocker don't heed it. Then again, if they did we wouldn't have this visionary blend of humour and horror; part tragedy, part love story and jolted by Rick Baker's Oscar winning prosthetic man-to-wolf transformation sequences that have never, ever been bettered. This writer, for one, cannot wait to hear that blood-curdling howl screaming digitally from the screen.

Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)

The first and best of the Indiana Jones films, this mega-hit is another rousing, vintage Spielberg adventure classic, one that demands to be seen on a gigantic screen.

Who needs 3D when that monstrous boulder comes crashing through the cave in the films' much copied opening sequence? This one is a generational right of passage. Take the kids.

Casino (1995)

The same creative team behind the much-lauded gangster drama Goodfellas (Scorsese and writer Nicholas Pileggi) re-teamed for this sprawling look at the dark side of mafia-ruled Las Vegas circa the '60s and '70s and though it's been called inferior to its predecessor, a second (or third or fourth) look might change some tunes. Robert DeNiro's best performance bumps up against Joe Pesci's mania, but the real treat is Sharon Stone as a playgirl who malfunctions with Shakespearean aplomb. Amazing pop music score too.

Damien Echols in the documentary West of Memphis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The West Memphis Three: Learning life after prison

Documentary. Story of three men who were granted their freedom after more than 18 years in prison

RICHARD CROUSE
Scene@metronews.ca

West of Memphis, a new documentary from Oscar nominated director Amy Berg, details the efforts to find justice for Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley Jr. and James Baldwin, collectively known as the West Memphis Three.

Convicted on dubious evidence in 1994 of the murder of three young boys, they became a cause celeb, with stars like Johnny Depp and Eddie Vedder working to exonerate them.

The outcome of the 17-year crusade to earn a new trial for the trio is well known — no spoilers here — and the movie ends on a high note, with the men granted their freedom after 18 years and 78 days in prison.

A year after his release Echols talked about adjusting to life on the outside.

"At the time I got out I had been in solitary confinement for almost a decade," he told me in September, "so I literally went from being in solitary confinement one day to the next being thrown out into the world.

"Out here it is like having to choose constantly. You make no choices in prison. It takes a lot of effort, a lot of energy. I'm having to learn things all over again. Even like how to go to the bank or use an ATM. Or use a computer."

Despite being in "a state of deep, deep, profound shock and trauma for at least two months when I first got out," he says life on the inside was worse.

"The level of stress, anxiety and fear that you live in is beyond comprehension to most people. You never even go to sleep all the way. Just the slightest noise wakes you up. There were times in the prison when you hear a noise and you're on your feet, ready to fight before your eyes even open up, before you're even conscious of what's going on."

These days he lives in Massachusetts with his wife Lorris (they married while he was behind bars), has written a book titled Life After Death and wants to do Tarot readings at MOMA as performance art, but the adjustment to life on the outside continues.

"Life since then has been about learning to put one foot in front of the other. I have so much fear and anxiety just about surviving in the world that most of what I'm doing and dealing with is about coping and how to get beyond that. That's all I'm focused on."

Interview

Plenty of Warm Bodies Down Under

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Warm Bodies' Teresa Palmer isn't one to shy away from a challenge. But we found one particularly daunting challenge for the Australian actress: explaining why Aussie pop star Kylie Minogue hasn't caught on in the U.S. like she has around the world.

Random question because you're Australian: Why do you think Kylie Minogue has never really caught on in the States?
That's really interesting. I don't know the ins and outs of what that is. She is so unique in Australia — her sound, her way, her vibrancy, her spirit — and in the U.K., I think she kind of stands alone. In America there are many artists trying to do her similar thing. Like, in Australia she's the big fish in the small pond, and then you come out to America and there's so many more millions and millions of people and just way more competition.

Would you say it's similar as an actress coming from Australia to the States?
It's almost more competitive in Australia because there are far fewer projects and many, many, many talented actors all vying for these rolls. We maybe only make 10 movies a year — and five of them are decent. It's quite sad, so when we run out of roles in Australia, we flock over (to) the United States, but luckily for us Aussies we've had amazing Aussie actors come before and sort of pave the way, like Naomi Watts and Nicole Kidman.

How do you think you'd fare in a zombie apocalypse? And how often has this question come up?
I'm not going to lie, it's come up a lot. But it's a good question. I think I would be good. I've had all the training, I know how to shoot a shotgun. I've got my weapons training down pat. I can channel my inner Number Six from "I am Number Four," she's a little warrior. And I also am very fit. I work out a lot. So I would use those skills to figure out how to combat the zombies in the apocalypse. I think it would be fun.

Quote

"It's almost more competitive in Australia because there are far fewer projects and many, many, many talented actors all vying for these rolls."
Teresa Palmer
Talking about an actors' experience in Australia.

Teresa Palmer, left, is grateful to the Aussie actors who came to Hollywood before her. HANDOUT

AU student AnnMarie in Edmonton, AB

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Directors can't resist lure of Big Easy's ether

New Orleans. Much maligned and mysterious, the Louisiana backdrop has become a staple for movies looking for that gritty feel

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
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Bullet to the Head, starring Sylvester Stallone, opens this weekend. HANDOUT

New Orleans is one of the great cities of the world. The vibrant, balmy beauty of the town gave birth to jazz, zydeco and some of the best food this side of Emeril Lagasse's slow cooker.

It's also the location of many movies, earning the nickname Hollywood South in reference to the many films that have been shot there in recent years.

This weekend the new Sylvester Stallone Y-chromosome thriller Bullet to the Head takes place in the gritty underbelly of post-Katrina New Orleans.

As they say in NOLA, it lets "the bonne temps roulez" with some spectacular Crescent City scenery, good zydeco party music all washed down with a healthy shot of Bulleit Bourbon.

Many recent movies have used the city as a backdrop, including Django Unchained, Looper, Killing Them Softly, Killer Joe and Beasts of the Southern Wild.

Tennessee Williams loved the Big Easy so much he once said, "America has only three cities: New York, San Francisco and New Orleans. Everywhere else is Cleveland."

Enamored with the place, he set several of his plays there, most famously A Streetcar Named Desire, which contains one of the most famous lines in movie history.

As played by Marlon Brando, Stanley Kowalski's barbaric yell of "Stella!" was voted one of the best movie quotes by the American Film Institute.

Streetcar's director, Elia Kazan, also set Panic in the Streets, the story of a doctor and a policeman who have just two days to find a killer infected with a highly contagious form of bubonic plague, in 1950s New Orleans.

It's dirty, dangerous, and claustrophobic — the perfect setting for a film noir.

Shot on location in New Orleans, it's as though the freewheeling attitude of the city loosened Kazan up a bit and let him relax.

"I went wild," he said. "It was a carny atmosphere. In one sequence, for extras we emptied a whorehouse of its girls. That was a jolly day. Living irregularly, I was in heaven."

One movie to take advantage of the city's connection to the occult — NOLA was, after all, the home of Voodoo priestess Marie Laveau — was Angel Heart. Mickey Rourke is Harry Angel, a New York City detective, hired by a mysterious man named Louis Cyphre (Robert De Niro).

The role of Louis Cyphre (say it fast to hear the homophone) was originally offered to Marlon Brando, who turned it down.

A lesson in geography

"America has only three cities: New York, San Francisco and New Orleans. Everywhere else is Cleveland."

Tennessee Williams
Talking about his love for the Big Easy.

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Bradley Cooper. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Bradley Cooper back pedals on Armstrong movie

Despite telling BBC News earlier this month that he'd be up for starring in a J.J. Abrams-produced biopic on disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong, Oscar-nominee Bradley Cooper insists he's not interested.

"Oh my God, that's so nuts," Cooper tells Access Hollywood, adding that he "had no idea what (the interviewer) was talking about" during the red carpet chat.

Dazed and confused

"(I) had no idea what (the interviewer) was talking about."

Bradley Cooper
Talking about being confused over a question on the Lance Armstrong movie

"I didn't even know that J.J. ... has the rights. I had no idea."

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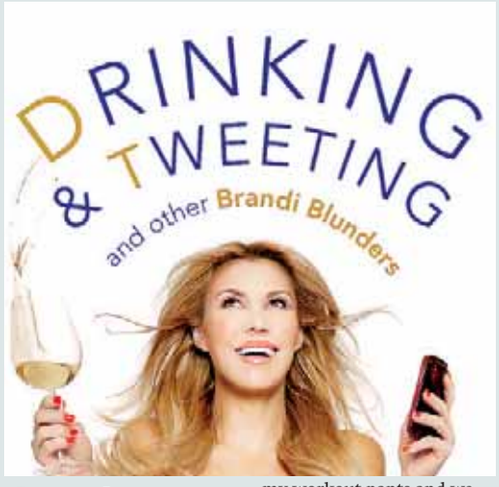

Stay classy Brandi Glanville

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Holy cats, you guys. Brandi Glanville is insane. How do we know this (besides reading every tabloid story ever)? Let me present to you some excerpts from the The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills star's new book, Drinking & Tweeting and other Brandi Blunders, which were obtained by Life & Style.

Her reaction after finding out about her then-husband, Edward Cibrian's, affair with LeAnn Rimes:
"I'm not entirely sure how I ended up on the floor of my closet sobbing ... a teary-eyed Eddie found me lying there minutes later, and without saying so much as a word, he started kissing me all over ... he pulled off my workout pants and we started having sex right there," she recalls. "He swore up and down my body that it wasn't true ... that it was completely innocent. In that moment, it was easier to believe him, because I just couldn't stand the thought of being without him."

How she would go about her revenge:
"A brand-new vagina would be an Eddie-free vagina. ... I decided that since Eddie had ruined my vagina for me, he could pay for a new one. I gave (the doctor's office) Eddie's credit card number," she says about undergoing a vaginal rejuvenation for $12,000.

But, really, no hard feelings:
"I would like to thank my ex-husband, Edward Cibrian, for giving me all the material I could ever need to write this book and for helping me discover the strong, independent woman inside of me," she writes, in Drinking & Tweeting, which will surely be a New York Times bestseller.

Channing Tatum

Tatum taking a glass-half-full approach to parenthood

Channing Tatum is terrified of his impending parenthood, but in a good way.

"I mean, I don't think there's one thing that doesn't terrify you, but in the most unbelievably beautiful way," the 32-year-old Magic Mike star tells E! News.

"Someone said it's really like watching your heart jump out of your body and run around, and I think that can possibly be the coolest thing that I've heard of."

As for how wife Jenna Dewan-Tatum is handling pregnancy?

"I mean, women just sort of turn into, like, animals in this sort of stage that they're in," he says. "She's a complete animal right now. You can ask her, but in the most beautiful, like, humanistic animaly way. You know, she works out all of the time, eats right, impeccably right. She's just a machine."

Daddy-to-be

"I don't think there's one thing that doesn't terrify you, but in the most unbelievably beautiful way."

Channing Tatum
On the impending birth of his first child

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It's expensive to be a tourist in a town that's hosting two of the biggest events of the new year — Mardi Gras and the NFL Super Bowl — but New Orleans has plenty of free things to do. The nearly 300-year-old French city has walkable neighbourhoods and scenic public parks dotted with centuries-old oak trees draped in Spanish moss, along with a free ferry and historic market.

PHOTOS AND STORY: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Free things to do in New Orleans

Mardi Gras and Bourbon Street

New Orleans is perhaps best-known for hosting one of the biggest free parties in the world: Mardi Gras. The Carnival season includes parades with costumed riders, marching bands and decorated floats, but it only lasts a few weeks. Visitors can get a taste of the madness and revelry of Carnival any time of year on Bourbon Street, the city's most famous thoroughfare, where scantily-clad women beckon patrons from strip club doorways and beads are flung from balconies to revellers down below year-round. It's also a hot spot for live music, which spills out onto the street from clubs with doors and windows flung open. And finally, Bourbon Street is a the one place where a costume can be flaunted any time of year.

Jackson Square

Artists painting on canvas, clowns making balloon animals, street performers and jazz musicians are among the free entertainment to be found in Jackson Square, a one-block section of the French Quarter anchored by a lush green space with benches set amid gardens and grand oak trees. The square is bordered by pedestrian-only walkways with restaurants, storefronts and upper-level balconies boasting decorative ironwork. Benches allow visitors to take in the architecture of the square's historic buildings, including the Cabildo and Pontalba Apartments, believed to be among the oldest apartment buildings in the country. Visitors are also welcome at St. Louis Cathedral, a place of worship for Catholics since the 1720s. jackson-square.com

City Park

City Park is the largest green space in New Orleans, with more than 1,300 acres of gardens, lagoons and walking trails set amid centuries-old oak trees draped in Spanish moss and filled with birds. The New Orleans Museum of Art is located in the park, and while there's a fee to enter the museum, just beyond the museum are dozens of art objects you can see for free in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden. The sculptures, valued at more than $25 million, can be viewed in a relaxing setting that includes meandering footpaths, pedestrian bridges and reflecting lagoons. neworleanscitypark.com.

Mississippi River Ferry

A boat ride is one of the best ways to get a look at the New Orleans skyline and the Mississippi River's daily parade of river barges, steamships and cruise ships. The Algiers Point ferry, which has been in operation since the early 1800s, is free to pedestrians. It runs every 30 minutes between the landing at the foot of Canal Street near the Aquarium of the Americas and the historic Algiers Point neighbourhood directly across the river from the French Quarter. Algiers Point, established in 1719, boasts a trove of historic Victorian-style homes, magnolia tree-lined streets with several parks, cafés, historic churches and bars with live music. But perhaps its best feature is an unobstructed view of the city's skyline and river traffic.

French Market

The smell of sweet pralines and freshly-brewed coffee wafts through the air of the New Orleans French Market. The centuries-old commercial hub stretches for several city blocks along the banks of the Mississippi River in the French Quarter and includes Cafe du Monde, home of the deep-fried, sugar-coated beignet, a popular New Orleans pastry. The market is a mix of open-air retail spaces dotted with produce stands and enclosed stores carrying specialty clothing and jewelry. It's an ideal destination for window shopping and people watching. The French Market dates to 1791.

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Mardi Gras brings baby dolls back

Century-old tradition.
Fat Tuesday's garter-clad women get their own exhibit

The "baby dolls," an on-again, off-again Mardi Gras tradition of New Orleans' African-American community, are on again.

The troupes of women strutting and prancing in bonnets, garters and skimpy or short, ruffled dresses on Fat Tuesday also are being spotlighted in a new book and museum exhibit that trace their history and modern rebirth.

When the predominantly African-American Zulu krewe hits the streets on Fat Tuesday — Feb. 12 — its marchers will include the Baby Doll Ladies, a troupe formed after hurricane Katrina. They play tambourines and cowbells to accompany their dance, a hip-hop style called bounce.

Though Mardi Gras celebrations date from the city's French founding in 1718, historians say the baby doll tradition started in 1912 when African American prostitutes who worked just outside the legal red-light district, called Storyville, dressed up on Mardi Gras to outdo their legal rivals.

Storyville was closed in 1917, but the baby doll costumes caught on and survived for decades in African-American neighbourhoods.

In the years of segregation, blacks celebrated Carnival in their neighbourhoods with informal parades of the brightly feathered and beaded Mardi Gras Indians, picnics and parties centred around the floats of the Zulu parade and costume traditions such as the baby dolls.

The end of segregation in the 1950s and '60s — and new economic opportunities — brought new avenues for African-Americans to participate in Mardi Gras. Debutante presentations at gala balls and more traditional float parades sprung up. And the revival of Lundi Gras celebrations the day before Mardi Gras brought together the monarch of the predominantly white Rex krewe to meet with the king of Zulu to toast the coming festival.

As times changed, the baby doll tradition faded.

But not everyone forgot the dolls, or what they meant to Carnival in New Orleans.

One new group — the 504 Eloquent Baby Dolls of New Orleans, named in part for a telephone area code — will march with a tribe of Mardi Gras Indians and the Skull and Bones club, maskers clad as skeletons in another revived black tradition.

"I've got a wonderful group of women who want to educate our youth, who want to bring our culture back to the streets of New Orleans," said Denise Trepagnier, a heavy crane operator and part-time seamstress who organized the group.

Around New Orleans neighbourhoods, you might catch a glimpse of other baby doll troupes with names like the Gold Digger Baby Dolls, the Treme Million Dollar Baby Dolls and the Ernie K-Doe Baby Dolls.

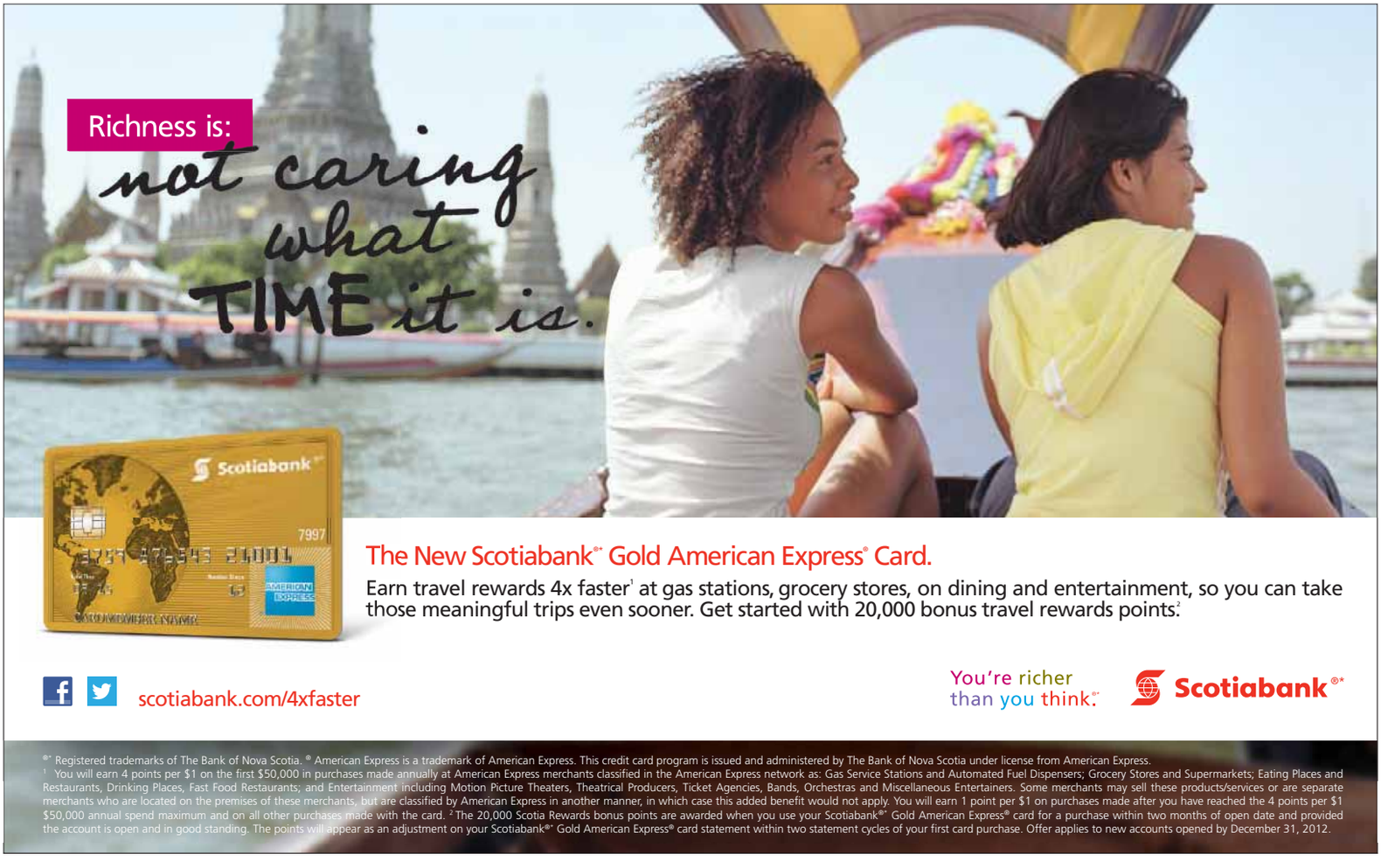
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The baby doll tradition began in 1912 when African American, illegal prostitutes would dress up to outdo their legal rivals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I've got a wonderful group of women who want to educate our youth, who want to bring our culture back to the streets of New Orleans."

504 Eloquent Baby Dolls organizer Denise Trepagnier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Try something a bit off-piste — Delirium Dive. COURTESY DAN HUDSON

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Behold the land of frozen pines and fresh powder

Ski escapes. These five spots offer something for families, weekend warriors and the true powder hounds

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Air scented with the resin of frozen pines, the feeling of carving your skis into a fast groomer and alpine vistas where saw-back peaks break the horizon. The mountains are calling...

Family-friendly skiing at Marmot Basin in Jasper

"The terrain (at Marmot) is probably the most balanced in western Canada, with 30 per cent green, 30 per cent blue, 20 per cent black and 20 per cent double black terrain," says Jeff Bartlet, Media and PR specialist for Tourism Jasper.

Marmot has a base and mid-mountain lodge, so if kids get cold it's never far to hot chocolate. It also offers nursery care for little ones 19 months and up, and lessons for children and adults. The overall feeling: cozy and comfortable with wild powder to be had.

Doing the Dive at Sunshine Village in Banff

Sunshine Village offers so much varied terrain that adrenaline begins to pump at the sight of an area map. And for experts, Sunshine holds a special delight: Delirium Dive. This off-piste area accessed from Lookout Mountain features more than 2,000 feet of vertical, a 40 degree average pitch and more than 600 acres of terrain. Skiers are required to carry beacons, probes and shovels and hike in groups of two or more. Check in with patrols at an access gate off the Continental Divide chair. Then it's a hike along a skinny ridge to drop into powdery heaven.

Luxurious Lake Louise in Lake Louise

The iconic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise offers a dose of luxury to the ski experience. Think fine china, exquisite old-world charm and expansive views of the icy lake. The chateau sits on the edge of a lake that has captivated travellers for over a century.

For true luxury, eat a meal at the elegant Fairview Dining Room. Feast on local cuisine while taking in one of the world's best views.

Picking Peaks at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort in Golden, B.C.

Throwing our skis over a shoulder, my husband Mike and I followed one of the resort's senior patrollers, Steve Crowe, to explore some inbounds ridges.

"There's an amazing world that unfolds," says Matt Mosteller, VP of Marketing and Sales for Resorts of the Canadian Rockies. "For those looking to explore less accessible terrain, I recommend checking in with the patrols. They share a love of the mountains and can point people in the right direction."

Four hikes took us to the quiet cove of Bowl Over and to the peaks of Terminator, Blue Heaven (Whitewall), and Terminator 2. Views of the quartzite Purcells pop up like canines, the Bugaboos appear on the far horizon as blue bulges and the Rocky Mountains show off their steep, varied girth. This is double-black diamond terrain.

Local Style at Castle Mountain near Pincher Creek, Alta.

Quiet, big, steep mountains. Castle Mountain is a locals' haven. With hand-me-down chairlifts from Sunshine Village, an on-mountain hostel and $67 (adult) lift tickets, Castle is an affordable place to rip.

The Castle Mountain Ski Lodge and Hostel offers dorm rooms ($27 per person plus tax) as well as hotel rooms. This quaint spot is a short walk to the day lodge. This is where the prairie country meets the big mountains, an oft-forgotten spot that speaks of times past — both in terms of its lifts and its prices. Bring a pot of chili for the communal kitchen and go local for the weekend.

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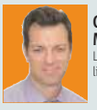
Travel tips

Don't fail your fitness routine



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Stay near a natural running route that makes it easy to get out and play. ISTOCK

If you are a road warrior anxious to keep the pounds off and the heart rate up, here are some tips to help you stay fit on your next trip.

Don't under estimate the effect jetlag can have on energy and motivation levels. Avoid it by drinking lots of water and staying away from alcohol and caffeine before, during and just after a flight. Adjust eating and sleeping schedules to your local destination time immediately.

Check in to a hotel with a proper fitness facility. The fully out-fitted health club you imagine, with dozens of treadmills, pilates classes and a gorgeous personal trainer could turn out to be a solitary rowing machine tucked into an old photocopy room. Nothing is more un-motivating than a lack of good equipment. When making your room reservation, ask the agent to describe exactly what the gym has to offer.

Go a step further and choose a hotel that promotes fitness. The Westin hotel chain has a running concierge program where one of the staff will take you on an early morning jog in the local area. They will even lend you New Balance running and work out gear if yours was forgotten at home. Sign up when you check-in. A written commitment will make it harder for you to hit the snooze button.

Hit a local gym. If you just can't find accommodation that suits both your business and health needs, then look outside the hotel. Just ask your concierge for a recommendation for a nearby gym or club that offers a day pass.

Stay near a park, along a river or next to a lake. These natural running routes are a great way to combine fitness with a little sightseeing. On business trips to London, I always stay at the Park Lane Hotel. Situated next to Hyde Park, it allows me to squeeze in a half-hour run and catch a glimpse of some of London's most famous landmarks at the same time.

Bring your favourite workout DVD with you. Even if the hotel doesn't offer DVD players in the guest rooms, just pop it into your laptop. Or upload your favourite work out program onto a PDA before you leave home. A road warrior friend of mine is fanatical about yoga and swears by the programs offered at www.yogalifeetc.com.

Bottom line, do not use being on the road as an excuse to stay on the couch.

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Dried Apricot and Cherry Salsa makes sidekick for turkey

Turkey Scaloppini with Apricot and Dried Cherry Salsa

This recipes serves four. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

Most supermarkets now sell boneless turkey breast, which is leaner than chicken. A 3 1/2-ounce serving of chicken has about 140 calories and 3 grams of fat, while the same amount of turkey breast has 120 calories and 1 gram of fat!

If you can't find these cutlets, ask your grocer to slice boneless breast into scaloppini. Dusting it with flour keeps the turkey moist and dried fruit salsa is an ideal accompaniment.

Serve the scaloppini over Sweet Potato Mash, with grilled vegetables alongside.

Ingredients

- 4 turkey scaloppini
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp vegetable oil

Salsa

- 1/4 cup chopped dried apricots
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/3 cup diced green onions, white part only
- 1 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 3 tbsp apricot jam
- 1 tbsp pure maple syrup
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp apple cider vinegar or freshly squeezed lemon juice

Garnish

- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro or parsley

1. Dust the turkey with flour. Spray a non-stick grill pan or skillet with cooking oil, add the vegetable oil and heat to medium. Sauté the turkey just until browned on both sides and no longer pink, about 8 minutes in total. Remove from the heat and keep covered.

2. To make the salsa, combine the apricots, cranberries, bell pepper, green onion, garlic, cilantro, jam, maple syrup, mustard and lemon juice.

3. Spoon the salsa over the turkey and garnish with cilantro or parsley. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Drink of the Week

Frostbite

A mix of tequila, crème de cacao and blue curacao shaken with milk and garnished with maraschino cherries, this is the type of frostbite you'll want to get.

- 1 oz Jose Cuervo Silver Tequila
- .5 oz White Crème de Cacao
- .5 oz Blue Curacao
- 1 oz milk
- Garnish with cherries

Shake all ingredients with ice in shaker.

Strain contents over fresh ice.

Garnish with 2 cherries on a sword.

Add a cocktail straw and serve.

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The secret to success is mine, all mine

You just struck gold. Now is the optimal time to explore career opportunities in the mining industry

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

A shortage of talent threatens to delay, downsize and even cancel mining projects around the world.

In Canada, where 40 per cent of the mining workforce is set to retire within the next 10 years, finding and hiring a skilled worker is like striking gold. That's good news for ambitious entry-level workers hoping to climb up the corporate ladder, says Andrew Pollard, president of Vancouver-based executive search firm The Mining Recruitment Group.

This includes people in scientific roles like geologists and engineers, those responsible for operational functions like equipment operators and tradespeople, and traditional support staff like analysts and lawyers. As a recent grad, you can set yourself apart from your co-workers and become a leader in your organization by doing these three things during your first five years:

Women now make up 18.6 per cent of the Canadian mining workforce, according to a 2011 Carleton University report. ISTOCK

Be really good at what you were hired to do

"If you were hired as a geologist, being a good geologist should be your main focus," Pollard says. Before you think about promotions and career advancement, it's important to show your boss that you're committed to excelling in your current role.

Diversify your skills

Once you get a handle on your primary function, Pollard recommends that you become familiar with other aspects of the mining business.

"Look for opportunities beyond your job title in investor relations or as a company spokesperson at conferences and tradeshows," he says.

One of the ways mining workers can diversify their skills is by enrolling in the Canadian Securities Course. On the other hand, workers who lack technical skills could consider enrolling in a mining-related training program.

Look for a mentor and be open to being mentored

"Find someone who really likes mentoring people and soak up as much information as you can," Pollard says.

The same goes if you're in an operational or supporting role. Reach out to someone you admire, who is accessible and whose leadership style you want to emulate.

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Student voice

Don't delay the discovery of your potential

Rainee Nelson
Student
Professional Writing
Algonquin College

TalentEgg.ca

When I finished high school last summer, I was planning to go to post-secondary school the next winter and I thought everything would be fine.

My plan for the summer was to spend as much time with my friends as possible, because they were going off to university in the fall and I also was searching for a job. When September came around and all my friends headed off to university, it was lonely, but I needed to continue with my job search.

Due to my indecisiveness, I chose not to pursue the program I registered for and opted for taking a year off to work. So I started up my job search again. I sat down at the computer and just Googled all the stores and companies I could think of and just sent them my resumé.

I got two interviews, one I thought went pretty well and the other, not so much. I've gotten emails back saying they'll look at my profile/resumé and they'll be in touch, but no one got in touch.

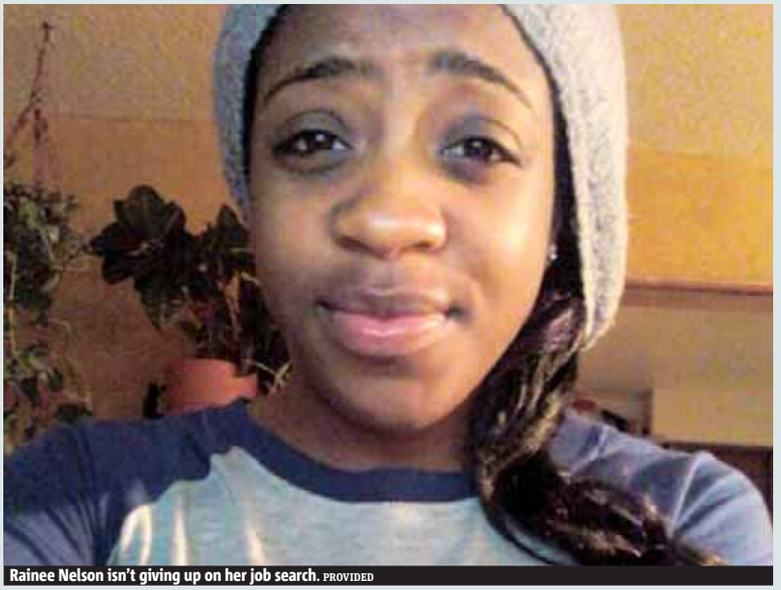
After a while, I felt like no one had seen my resumé or even cared to look because I didn't have much experience.

Well, how can I gain experience if no one would give me a chance? But I kept looking and I'm still looking. I'm not sure if it's my resumé or my interview skills (even though I've only been in two my whole life) but, who knows. Practice makes perfect.

Calm equals confidence

"Making someone else feel comfortable as well will make the whole interview process a lot easier, I believe. "

Rainee Nelson



Rainee Nelson isn't giving up on her job search. PROVIDED

What I'm doing now

Right now I'm still currently looking for a job and I'm considering doing some internship work. Maybe that could add to my experience.

My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

I haven't had enough experience to give a recommendation, but from the last interview I had I would say to the employers: make the interviewee as comfortable as possible. How are you going to get to know someone and see if they are up for the job if you can see them fumbling over their words, constantly moving around and downright being a nervous wreck? Making someone else feel comfortable as well will make the whole interview process a lot easier, I believe.

My advice for other students and recent graduates

My advice would be don't leave it to the last minute. Do your research, have someone look over your resumé and just go for it. If you truly want something, take risks and see what happens. Don't be lazy or procrastinate or you'll end up in the same position as I am.

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What a prospect!
Dreaming of a post that will let you pursue your passion for travel? Mining may be the field for you

ASHLEIGH TRAHAN
TalentEgg.ca

Dig deep and ask yourself: is this the right career for you? FLICKR / RICK MCCHARLES

As a recruiter, I've searched for professionals to fill roles with clients across the globe, in a wide variety of industries.

One industry has truly stood out in terms of the opportunities it presents to work abroad: mining.

I've encountered mining engineers who have been able to work their way around the world on amazing projects in the most remote corners of the earth.

If you are looking to experience different countries and cultures, you should consider a career in mining!

You can certainly work for the head office of a mining company without leaving the confines of big cities like Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary. But if Bay Street isn't your style, a mining career could be your ticket to adventure in remote, rugged locations both in Canada and abroad.

For example, Canadian mining company Teck Resources has mine sites from the Red Dog zinc-lead mine in northwestern Alaska, to the Quebrada Blanca mine in northern Chile. Goldcorp's largest operation is their Red Lake site in northern Ontario, but their operations also span to multiple sites in Mexico, if you prefer sun over snowshoes.

As you may suspect, mining companies often hire young professionals with backgrounds in engineering and geology, but those are not the only opportunities to make a career in the industry.

Long before mines are producing tons of precious metals per day, there are thousands of workers required to create the budgets, do the legal legwork and bring the mine into production.

Often, mining companies will hire surveyors, engineers and geologists for a few years to support the design and build of a mine, and then they'll move on to a different project.

These lucky folks get to travel around the world and spend a few years in Australia before moving onto their next project in Panama.

Up for an adventure?

"Canadian mining company Teck Resources has mine sites from the Red Dog zinc-lead mine in northwestern Alaska, to the Quebrada Blanca mine in northern Chile."
Ashleigh Trahan

When the mine is actually operational, all sorts of support staff to keep the mine operations running smoothly — health and safety experts, information technology professionals, and skilled trades, to name a few.

So, even if you're looking to launch a career in human resources, for example, there are opportunities for you in the mining industry.

Working in remote locations and new countries may present challenges that working in a cubicle may not (like being a few hundred kilometres from the nearest Starbucks), it also provides the opportunity to be exposed to new cultures while gaining experience in an exciting and innovative industry.

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Leafs forward Matt Frattin scores the overtime winner on Sabres goalie Ryan Miller under pressure from defenceman Jordan Leopold on Tuesday in Buffalo.
DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs buck losing trend in Buffalo

NHL. Frattin provides offence, Reimer outduels Miller as Toronto gets rare win at First Niagara Center

This was where Maple Leaf teams have come to die over the past several years.

Toronto entered their tilt with the hometown Sabres at the First Niagara Center Tuesday night fighting three years of negative history.

A record of 11 losses in the club's past 12 visits to their rivals on the other side of the Peace Bridge brought up memories of great goaltending from Ryan Miller and many games in which the Sabres were the superior club.

Prior to Tuesday night's game, Toronto players vowed to stop that.

On Tuesday

Leafs	Sabres
4	3

So, in one of the best games the Leafs have played in Buffalo's rink recently, Toronto found a decent physical game in Miller's crease and parlayed that and some good netminding of their own from James Reimer to a 4-3 overtime win.

Matt Frattin, with his second goal of the game, won it for the Leafs late in the overtime period.

Of utmost importance was the Leafs finally establishing themselves in front of Miller to create some chaos and opportunity for some rebound goals.

Two of the Leafs' four goals came off rebounds. Overall, every Leaf tally was the product of either good forechecking or good effort to give Miller something he hasn't dealt with too often when facing the Leafs — a big body blocking his view.

Mikhail Grigorenko scored his first NHL goal to tie the game at 3-3 midway through the third period. It was a backhander that squeaked under Reimer's pads, the one blemish on an otherwise outstanding evening.

Besides Frattin, Jay McClement, with his first as a Leaf, and Cody Franson scored for Toronto. Frattin, like Reimer, had his best game of the season.

McClement, on the wing on the second line with Clarke MacArthur injured, also had a strong game. Franson and James van Riemsdyk were also at their best for the Leafs.

Marcus Foligno and Andrej Sekera, on a wonderful backhand set up from Drew Stafford, had the Buffalo goals.

Reimer, making his third start of the season, gave firm indication that his game is rounding nicely into form, making 29 saves on 32 Sabres shots. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Quoted

"There are times when you challenge (come out farther in the crease) and there are times when you play deep. We're trying to get them going on a consistent basis now."

Leafs goalie James Reimer on the differences between playing under new goaltending coach Rick St. Croix and former coach Francois Allaire.

NFL

Bills to return to Toronto, but likely not permanently

The Bills Toronto Series was unveiled originally as an opportunity to showcase the city as a potential home for an NFL franchise.

Five years later, it seems more about providing premium content for Rogers Communications Inc. than luring a NFL franchise north of the border.

On Tuesday, the Bills and Rogers Media extended the agreement another five years. Starting next season, Buffalo will play one regular-season game annually at Rogers Centre and an exhibition contest in 2015.

The inaugural agreement expired in December.

Financial terms weren't divulged, but the deal is expected to be worth significantly less than the $78 million US Buffalo received in the original agreement.

On Tuesday, Rogers Media president Keith Pelley and Bills CEO Russ Brandon were front and centre to announce the extension at Rogers Centre with Series director Greg Albrecht and Buffalo head coach Doug Marrone also attending.

"I can't speak of what the real reason was five years ago because I wasn't here," said Pelley. "We looked at this extension as a chance to bring world-class premium content to two of our entities — Rogers Centre and Sportsnet — and the NFL and Buffalo Bills are that." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

New Bills head coach Doug Marrone attends a press conference on Tuesday at Rogers Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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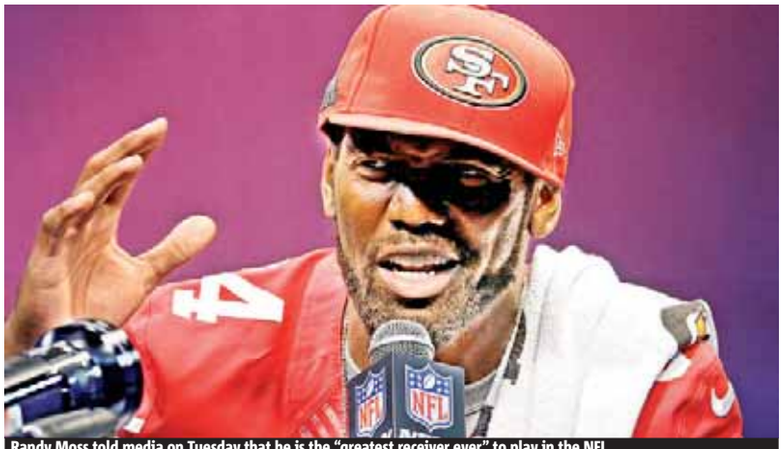

Randy Moss told media on Tuesday that he is the "greatest receiver ever" to play in the NFL.
DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Veteran receivers will have second shot at title ring

Super Bowl media day. Niners' Moss and Ravens' Boldin both trying to put tough championship losses behind them

Randy Moss used to be a star. Now, he's just an afterthought with the San Francisco 49ers.

It's a role he's still struggling to accept.

Moss spent much of his career as one of the NFL's top receivers. During Super Bowl media day on Tuesday, he called himself "the greatest receiver ever to do it." That's a claim sure to be debated in NFL circles.

One thing is certain: the 35-year-old Moss is no longer an elite receiver. This season with the 49ers he caught just 28 passes for 434 yards and three touchdowns.

While Moss says he "doesn't understand" being a blocker and a decoy, he's willing to accept his new status if that's what it takes to win his first Super Bowl.

On the other side of the field will be Anquan Boldin, who wants to be known as more than simply a tough receiver.

The 32-year-old, a key player in Baltimore's charge to the Super Bowl, isn't afraid to cut across the field. He can shrug off a hard hit and also is an aggressive downfield blocker.

Asked Tuesday if he appreciates his reputation as one of the toughest receivers in the league, Boldin replied, "I look at it as, I'm a football player. Not so much a receiver."

Oh, but the man can catch the ball. He's scored three touchdowns in three playoff games, and now he's hoping for a Super Bowl ring after coming up short in 2008 with Arizona.

Moss also came up short just a year earlier after the 2007 season, when the New England Patriots lost to the New York Giants after an undefeated season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Al says no thanks to Mavs' comeback proposal

Allen Iverson is taking a pass on the D-League.

Iverson, the 2001 NBA MVP, has turned down an opportunity to return to basketball with the Dallas Mavericks' Development League affiliate. He posted a series of tweets on Tuesday explaining his decision to decline an offer from Texas Legends' co-owner Donnie Nelson to join the team.

"I thank Donnie and Dallas for the consideration," Iverson wrote, "And while I think the D-League is a great opportunity, it is not the route for me."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
New Jersey	5	3	0	2	12	9	8
NY Islanders	6	3	2	1	22	19	7
NY Rangers	6	3	3	0	16	17	6
Pittsburgh	6	3	3	0	16	18	6
Philadelphia	7	2	5	0	14	20	4

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	6	5	0	1	19	12	11
Ottawa	6	4	1	1	19	12	9
Montreal	5	4	1	0	17	10	8
Toronto	6	3	3	0	18	20	6
Buffalo	6	2	3	1	16	19	5

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Tampa Bay	6	5	1	0	29	15	10
Winnipeg	6	3	2	1	18	18	7
Carolina	5	2	3	0	14	18	4
Washington	6	1	4	1	13	22	3
Florida	6	1	5	0	10	24	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	6	6	0	0	22	13	12
St. Louis	6	5	1	0	24	13	10
Detroit	6	3	2	1	15	17	7
Columbus	6	2	3	1	11	19	5
Nashville	6	1	2	3	10	18	5

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Edmonton	5	3	2	0	15	14	6
Vancouver	6	2	2	2	16	19	6
Minnesota	5	2	2	1	13	15	5
Colorado	5	2	3	0	10	13	4
Calgary	4	1	2	1	11	15	3

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
San Jose	5	5	0	0	23	8	10
Anaheim	4	3	1	0	15	14	6
Los Angeles	5	2	2	1	11	14	5
Dallas	7	2	4	1	13	18	5
Phoenix	6	2	4	0	21	20	4

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

Tuesday's results
Boston 2 New Jersey 1 (SO)
NY Rangers 2 Philadelphia 1
Toronto 4 Buffalo 3 (OT)
Montreal 4 Winnipeg 3
Ottawa 3 Washington 2
Detroit 4 Dallas 1
NY Islanders 4 Pittsburgh 1
Tampa Bay 5 Florida 2
Columbus at Minnesota
Anaheim at San Jose
Monday's results
Boston 5 Carolina 3
Columbus 2 Dallas 1
Phoenix 4 Nashville 0
Edmonton 4 Colorado 1
Los Angeles 3 Vancouver 2 (SO)
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Montreal at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.
Colorado at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Thursday's games
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Nashville at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Edmonton at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

NHL SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Marleau, SJ	9	4	13
Thornton, SJ	3	10	13
St. Louis, TBL	3	8	11
Stamkos, TBL	3	7	10
Pavelski, SJ	2	8	10
Parise, Min	5	4	9
Vanek, Buf	3	6	9
Kane, Chi	2	7	9
Gaborik, NYR	5	3	8
Hossa, Chi	5	3	8
Tarasenko, STL	4	4	8
Pominville, Buf	3	5	8
Couture, SJ	3	5	8
Shattenkirk, STL	0	8	8
Conacher, TBL	2	5	7
Hall, Edm	1	6	7
Purcell, TBL	1	6	7
Tavares, NYI	1	6	7
Pietrangelo, STL	1	6	7
Winnik, Ana	5	1	6
Heatley, Min	4	2	6
Staal, Car	4	2	6
Kane, Win	3	3	6
Toews, Chi	3	3	6
Byfuglien, Win	3	3	6

Not including last night's games

NFL

SUPER BOWL XLVII

Sunday, Feb. 3 At New Orleans, La.
Baltimore vs. San Francisco, 6 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	28	13	.683	—
New York	27	15	.643	1½
Chicago	27	17	.614	2½
Brooklyn	27	18	.600	3
Indiana	26	19	.578	4
Atlanta	25	19	.568	4½
Milwaukee	24	19	.558	5
Boston	21	23	.477	8½
Philadelphia	18	26	.409	11½
Detroit	17	28	.378	13
Toronto	**16**	**29**	**.356**	**14**
Orlando	14	30	.318	15½
Cleveland	13	33	.283	17½
Washington	11	32	.256	18
Charlotte	11	33	.250	18½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	36	11	.766	—
Oklahoma City	34	11	.756	1
L.A. Clippers	33	13	.717	2½
Memphis	29	15	.659	5½
Golden State	28	17	.622	7
Denver	28	18	.609	7½
Utah	24	21	.533	11
Houston	25	22	.532	11
Portland	22	22	.500	12½
L.A. Lakers	19	25	.432	15½
Dallas	19	25	.432	15½
Minnesota	17	24	.415	16
Sacramento	17	29	.370	18½
New Orleans	15	29	.341	19½
Phoenix	15	30	.333	20

Note: division leaders ranked in top three positions regardless of winning percentage.

Tuesday's results
Golden State 108 Cleveland 95
Milwaukee 117 Detroit 90
Dallas at Portland
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Memphis 103 Philadelphia 100
Golden State 114 **Toronto 102**
Sacramento 96 Washington 94
Brooklyn 97 Orlando 77
Chicago 93 Charlotte 85
Denver 102 Indiana 101
Houston 125 Utah 80
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Brooklyn, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
New Orleans at Utah, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

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2013 Dodge Dart Limited shown.[5]

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Less Fuel. More Power. Great Value is a comparison between the 2013 and the 2012 Chrysler Canada product lineups. 40 MPG or greater claim (7.0 L/100 km) based on 2013 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. See retailer for additional EnerGuide details. ¤2013 Dodge Dart AERO (Late availability) – Hwy: 4.8 L/100 km (59 MPG) and City: 7.3 L/100 km (39 MPG). Wise customers read the fine print: •, †, § The First Big Deal Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after January 8, 2013. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating retailers for complete details and conditions. All pricing includes freight ($1,500–$1,595), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. •$16,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A) only. †4.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A) model to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Auto Finance and Ally Credit Canada. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. See your retailer for complete details. Example: 2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A) with a Purchase Price of $16,995 financed at 4.99% over 96 months with $0 down payment, equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $99 with a cost of borrowing of $3,652 and a total obligation of $20,647.15. §2013 Dodge Dart Limited shown. Price: $24,840. **Based on 2012 *Ward's* upper small sedan costing under $25,000. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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2013 Buick Verano Turbo

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

By comparison

1 Audi A4
Base price: $39,700

2 Hyundai Sonata Turbo
Base price: $33,400

Fuel economy

Fuel economy with the manual gearbox is 10.2 l/100 km in the city and 6.3 on the highway (10.1/6.6 for the automatic), numbers that differ only slightly from the base Verano's 9.9/6.2 rating. To handle the power, the Turbo receives a unique steering calibration and a suspension that's 20 per cent firmer.

The engine is a two litre with 250 hp.

2013 Buick Verano Turbo

- **Type.** Four-door entry-luxury compact sedan
- **Engine (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (250)
- **Transmission.** Six-speed automatic; six-speed manual
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $32,400

Engine

Enter the Verano Turbo that puts out 250 horsepower from its 2.0-litre four-cylinder. More importantly, the engine makes 260 pound-feet of torque, with 90 per cent of it available from between 1,750 and 5,500 revs per minute. That's only 20 horses and 10 pound-feet shy of the larger (and heavier) Buick Regal GS.

Power

Buick claims the Turbo will accelerate to 60 m.p.h. (96 km/h) from rest in slightly more than six seconds, which is right in line with comparable premium brands from Audi and BMW that Buick holds up as performance benchmarks. It's also half a second quicker than the 270-horsepower Regal GS.

Review. Dressed for the ball but wearing sneakers ... fast sneakers

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Buick's grand plan is in full swing and it appears to be actually working.

Just what is the plan, you ask? Well, it involves downsizing the line and injecting it with more style and less mass. And baptizing all models in a fountain of youth.

They also run on smaller, fuel-frugal power plants that offer as much as or greater performance than previous models. The plan includes enhancing the luxury-car experience to match or exceed the premium import brands.

The Lacrosse and Regal already fall into this strategy, as does the Verano, which was new for 2012. However for the 2013 model year the smallest Buick sedan is literally stepping up the pace with an optional — and significantly more powerful — turbo-charged model.

The sense here is that Buick needed to add some premium power for the Verano to be considered in the same sport-sedan league as BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz, and not be viewed as an afterthought brand. With its more mature customer base shrinking over the years, reinvention and rejuvenation has become a matter of survival. Outwardly, the Turbo varies only slightly from the regular-strength Verano with dual exhaust outlets, subtle rear spoiler and trunk lid badge. Elegant is better here, for sure.

The fact that the only significant Turbo options are a navigation system and a power sunroof underscores how well the car lines up with other luxury-leaning compacts vying for your dollars.

The overall attractiveness of the Verano, coupled with the rapid-fire authority of its high-output turbo, makes it worthy of its Euro-based peers and for less money in most cases. You have to love it when a plan comes together.

The interior is futuristic yet elegant.

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Angry teen drives his parents crazy

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Teen on the run: Part of me wants to scold the kid for being so reckless, another part of me wants to congratulate him. ISTOCK

Not sure about you, but I'm conflicted about the actions of that 13-year-old driver from Italy.

A couple of weeks ago, after a dispute with his adopted parents about cellphone charges and the subsequent confiscation of his cellphone, he took off in his father's Mercedes-Benz, with the plan to visit his biological sister in Poland.

He took his passport and the equivalent of about $260. He managed to get fuel, cross two borders, and cover about 600 kilometres before he was picked up by German police and returned to his parents.

One side of me says, way to go Bud, you just caused incredible grief to everyone who cares about you and endangered hundreds of motorists from Italy to Poland.

Another side of me says, that was awesome, Bud. Not only the driving, but also the chutzpah. I can hardly cross back over the Buffalo border with a pair of undeclared Rockports on my feet.

Apparently he is a go-cart racer and actually looks like he's about 16. But still. Italy to Poland in your father's Mercedes when you're 13? You did your teenage tribe and human race proud.

We obviously shouldn't be condoning this kind of behaviour, but it is consistent with how researchers say the teenage brain is wired — particularly with boys — and possibly how teenagers "should" behave on occasion.

They have a need to take risks, and the gene pool benefits from people who learn from their risk taking when the stakes are lower.

Risk taking during adolescence is seen in all mammals, so there must be some biological reason for it. Just saying.

According to a study, called Why Do Boys Engage in More Risk Taking Than Girls by Barbara A. Morrongiello and Heather Rennie at the University of Guelph, boys have both nature and nurture-related reasons for their increased risk taking.

We encourage and/or tolerate more risk taking in our boys, and they generally are more optimistic about their chances.

And if it doesn't go so good, boys often just mark it down to bad luck. Boys are also more prone to pro rate their injury chances — a small injury is entirely OK. Girls see any chance of injury and just say no. They are smarter.

Puberty also plays a role. Apparently the section in the brain that computes emotion and social interaction is overactive during puberty, while the section designated for regulating behaviour is still a work-in-progress until early adulthood.

All this is not to justify the actions of our guy in Italy, but we should at least know what he was up against. And we should also note that he was not using his cellphone at any time during his drive. Yes, his parents took it away from him. But he was practising safe smartphone etiquette. You can't say he wasn't.

Parts Department

Whether it's a birthday gift for a friend or loved one or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

One fast clock

Making everyday items out of car parts isn't new, but using retired Formula One engine pieces to construct an alarm clock base is downright legendary. This office/bedside clock made by race mechanic/engineer Nathan O'Dell of Manchester, England, is encased in a gearbox component that's made of titanium and originates from a Honda Grand Prix engine. It also includes the actual part number stamped into the metal for verification of the authenticity. The selling price is $51 US, but note that there are only 15 clocks available. To reserve yours, head to etsy.com/listing/101902091/.

Give 'em the chair

For serious followers of the racing scene, Lasir Furniture of Switzerland has created this one-of-a-kind chair that is a tribute to the early 1970s Porsche 917 endurance racing cars sponsored by Gulf Oil. The chair is constructed just like a modern race car and uses a hollow molded carbon fibre manufacturing process that makes it extremely light and durable. The finish is done up in Gulf's classic blue and orange paint scheme that has been approved by the oil company. At $2,300, the Gulf chair isn't cheap, but it will always be very exclusive and something you and your friends will talk about for years. Visit laisr.com to get yours.

Drinking on track

Always a fine addition to any gearhead's bar, these cool racetrack coasters are guaranteed to attract plenty of attention. The track layouts etched into each one include Laguna Seca near Monterey, Calif., the Monaco street course, and the Nürburgring track in Germany. Each coaster is produced from layered high-density polyethylene plastic and come with a non-skid base. The full set of six coasters sells for $40 US from a number of online outlets, including griotsgarage.com.

Fold your own vehicle

Origami is alive and well when it comes to making automobile representations. All you need is an sharp hobby knife, some glue and a pattern created by Jesse Smith who is the driving force behind Paper Cruisers. The company focuses on pickup trucks and off roaders, including the Jeep Wrangler, Ford SVT Raptor and Toyota FJ Cruiser. All are amazingly life-like and can be had in a variety of colours. Each fold-up model is priced in the $7 US range. You can check out the complete lineup and place your order at papercruiser.com.

ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

World champion J.M. Leroux does a cartwheel after learning he can lease a 2013 Jetta from only $168 a month with no down payment.

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*Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2013 Jetta 2.0L / 2013 Tiguan 2.0T base model with 5-speed/6-speed manual transmission. $1,395/$1,610 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 36/48-month term. $0/$2,858 down payment and $220/$350 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation: $6,048/$17,162. 48,000/64,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.15 per km for excess kilometres. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options, and applicable taxes are extra. 2013 Jetta Highline 2.5L as shown is $24,590. 2013 Tiguan Comfortline 2.0T with Sport Package as shown is $33,475. Models shown for illustration purposes only. Models may not be exactly as shown. Some features may be optional on some models and available at additional cost. Dealer may lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offer ends February 28, 2013 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design", "Jetta" and "Tiguan" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2013 Volkswagen Canada.

Check last generation Altima for a leaky master cylinder

Second Gear.
2007-2012
Nissan Altima

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

Sporty, practical and ready for Canadian life, the Nissan Altima was often considered as a sportier alternative to models like the Honda Accord, Chevrolet Malibu and Ford Fusion. Available in both a sporty coupe or a traditional sedan and with one of two engines, shoppers should find no issues tracking down an Altima that's just right for their needs. Look for heated leather, navigation, Bluetooth, a sunroof, push-button start and plenty more on the options roster.

stay fairly steady. This is normal. Lurching, surging or sporadic power delivery isn't. If you're unfamiliar with the feel of a CVT transmission, ask a Nissan mechanic to give it a check up ahead of your purchase. A brake warning light on the dashboard could be caused by a common master-cylinder leak which can prevent your used Altima from being able to stop. Be sure this warning light isn't present and that the brakes perform strongly. Your local Nissan mechanic will be familiar with the leaking master cylinder problem and able to diagnose it quickly if you note any issues. Opting for a high-end Altima model? Be sure to ensure its features, including automatic climate control, power seats and navigation work as expected. On any model, inspect the dashboard carefully for signs of cracking.

PHOTO:HANDOUT

Common Issues

Start your test-drive of a used Altima by "feeling" for any unwelcomed sensations from the CVT transmission. It should deliver power smoothly, and on an uninterrupted surge when given the boots. Revs will often wind up and

Engine

Standard was a 2.5 litre four-cylinder engine with 175 horsepower. A 3.5 litre V6 with 270 ponies was available. All Altima variants were front-wheel drive.

What owners like

Many Altima owners report plenty of space, a comfortable ride, plenty of at-hand interior storage, a quiet ride and even good fuel economy.

What owners dislike

Blind spots, a large turning circle, sub-par performance from the up-level BOSE stereo system and some cheap interior trim are key owner-stated complaints.

Verdict

Despite a few fairly concentrated issues, the last-generation Altima seems to be a fairly solid used-car bet, especially if it checks out with a mechanic ahead of your purchase

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Why does your car depreciate?

Driving Force. The factors are many, but it could be down to rising oil prices or that you're driving a luxury vehicle

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Right from the day you buy it, and as it gets older, your vehicle loses some of its value. Its depreciation is the difference between what you paid for it and what you could get if you traded it in or sold it. But that amount can depend on several factors, and not all of them are directly related to your specific vehicle.

"There's nothing that is set in stone for rates," says Josh Bailey, vice-president of research and editorial at Canadian Black Book, which forecasts and publishes the anticipated values of new and used cars. "We have an understanding of what happens once you start to drive the car, but if economic factors come up, such as if we'd jumped off the fiscal cliff, we'd have been wrong for the coming year."

While your car's brand and its initial cost are factors in its depreciation, there are also outside forces, such as fuel prices. If gasoline becomes expensive, most buyers will look for smaller used cars and their prices will rise, while larger vehicles will drop in value. (You could use that to your advantage when buying a used car, though: if the difference is large enough, it could more than make up for the extra you'll pay in fuel.)

Prices on new cars will also affect those of older ones. If this year's model has a lower price than what you paid for yours last year, or if the manufacturer adds incentives, you won't be able to get as much for yours as a used vehicle. If the difference is small enough, many buyers will pay a little more to get a brand-new car with a full warranty.

As a rule, luxury vehicles tend to depreciate the most, since they can be very expensive to repair once they're out of warranty. If you're looking at a used premium-brand vehicle advertised at an enticingly low price, call a dealer and ask about the cost of oil changes and regular maintenance, and repairs such as brakes or steering components.

On some sports cars or luxury vehicles, these could be thousands of dollars, versus a few hundred for a more mainstream brand. "A lot of people forget about maintenance costs when they buy a car," Bailey says. "The price of any car is what it costs to keep it on the road."

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HONDA

*No payments for 90 days (payment deferral) offer is available on all new 2013 Honda models financed between January 3rd, 2013 and January 31st, 2013 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. Offer applies only to purchase finance offers on approved credit through Honda Financial Services Inc. Monthly payments are deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After 60 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will be required to repay the principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract, but not until 90 days after the contract date. Offer ends January 31st, 2013 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Ω Limited time lease offers on a new 2013 Honda Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Accord LX (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease examples: based on a 2013 Honda Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Accord LX Sedan (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (RM3H3DES) on a 48 // 48 // 48 month term at 2.99% // 3.99% // 3.99% // 3.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $177.99 // $197.99 // $287.99 // $328.00 [includes $1,495 // $1,495 // $1,640 // $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100 except Fit DX and Civic DX), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $1,578 // $1,061 // $2,328 // $2,106 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $10,121.52 // $10,564.52 // $16,151.52 // $17,850.00. 96,000 -kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ••Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2012. ◊Cargo space calculated on volume behind second-row seats with rear-seats up for two-row vehicles in segment and third-row seats with rear seats up for three-row vehicles in segment. Compact Segment classification based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC). All measurements sourced from data published by each manufacturer. ‡Does not replace the driver's responsibility to exercise due care while driving. ΔText message and e-mail functions are only compatible with certain devices.

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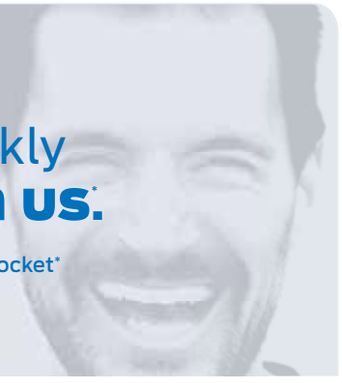

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5.5L/100km **51MPG** HWY**
7.8L/100km **36MPG** CITY**

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2013 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK

2013 **Escape** SE FWD 1.6L EcoBoost®

6.0L/100km **47MPG** HWY**
9.1L/100km **31MPG** CITY**

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$178†† **@ 1.49%** APR

Financed bi-weekly for 72 months with $1,999 down payment.

or purchase for only **$28,328**^

or lease for only

$328††† **@ 1.49%** APR

per month for 48 months with $1,999 down payment.
Offers exclude taxes.

CARS Offers BEST IN CLASS PAYLOAD††† TOWING††† POWER*

2013 **F-150** STX Super Cab

8.7L/100km **32MPG** HWY**
12.5L/100km **23MPG** CITY**

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or lease for only

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Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. †Until February 28, 2013, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2013 Ford Fusion (excluding Hybrid, HEV, PHEV)/Taurus (excluding SE), Edge (excluding SE), Escape (excluding S)/Focus (excluding S, ST and BEV), Fiesta (excluding S)], models for a maximum of [48]/[60]/[72] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $30,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72 months, monthly payment is $625.00/$500.00/$416.67, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $30,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. **Until February 28, 2013, lease a new 2013 Escape SE FWD 1.6L Ecoboost®/F-150 STX Super Cab 4x2] model and get [1.49%/2.99%]APR for up to [48/36] months on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease the above models with a value of [$28,328/$24,028] at [1.49%/2.99%]APR for up to [48/36] months with [$1,999/$0] down or equivalent trade in, monthly payment is [$328/$358], total lease obligation is [$17,744/$12,888], optional buyout is [$11,717/$12,812]. Cost of leasing is [$1,128/$1,643]. Taxes payable on full amount of lease financing price after any price adjustment is deducted. Additional payments required for PPSA, registration, security deposit, NSF fees (where applicable), excess wear and tear, and late fees. Some conditions and mileage restrictions apply. A charge of [12]/[16] cents per km over kilometrage restriction applies, plus applicable taxes [Escape]/[F-Series]. ††Until February 28, 2013, receive [0%/1.49%/4.99%] APR purchase financing on new 2013 Focus SE Sedan/Escape SE FWD 1.6L Ecoboost®/F-150 STX Super Cab 4x2] models for a maximum of 72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Get the above for [$19,878/$28,328/$24,028] at [1.49%/2.99%]APR for up to [48/36] months with [$1,999/$0] down or equivalent trade in, monthly payment is [$277/$328/$358] (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of [$128/$178/$178]). Interest cost of borrowing is [$0/$1,213/$3,834] or APR of [0%/1.49%/4.99%] and total to be repaid is [$19,878/$29,767/$27,768]. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. ^Offer valid from January 15, 2013 to February 28, 2013 (the "Offer Period"). ^First Three Bi-Weekly Payments on Us^ (the "Offer") applies up to a total maximum amount of [$300]/[$750]/[$1,000] / [$1,750] (all three bi-weekly payments in total) (the "Maximum Amount") per eligible 2013 [Focus (excluding ST and BEV), Fiesta]/ [Fusion, Escape, Focus ST, Focus BEV, C-MAX]/ [Mustang, Taurus, Edge, Explorer, Flex, F-150]/ [Expedition] — all Shelby GT500, F-150 Raptor, Transit Connect, F-Series Super Duty, F-650/F-750 Lincoln models excluded (each an "Eligible Vehicle") to customers who finance or lease an Eligible Vehicle during the Offer Period through Ford Credit or the FALS program on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit Canada. For customers making monthly payments, the first three bi-weekly payment amounts will be calculated by multiplying the monthly payment by 12, dividing the resulting amount by 26, and multiplying the resulting amount by three. In most cases, the customer will be responsible for making all scheduled payments in accordance with his or her purchase or lease agreement but will receive a cheque from the dealer for an amount equivalent to the first three bi-weekly payments, including tax, up to the Maximum Amount. The means by which the Offer will be executed by dealers to customers will vary based on the type of purchase or lease agreement - see dealer for full details. Offer not available to cash purchase customers. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Offer not available on any vehicle receiving CPA, GPC, Commercial Connection or Daily Rental Rebates and the Commercial Fleet Rebate Program (CFRP). Customers eligible for CFRP are not eligible for this offer. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ‡Based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ‡Until February 28, 2013, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2013 Ford Fusion (excluding Hybrid, HEV, PHEV)/ Taurus (excluding SE), Edge (excluding SE), Escape (excluding S)/Focus (excluding S, ST and BEV), Fiesta (excluding S)], models for a maximum of [48]/ [60]/ [72] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. 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Offer not available on any vehicle receiving CPA, GPC, or Daily Rental Incentives. †Until February 28, 2013, receive $500/ $1,000/ $1,750 on new 2013 Focus (excluding S, ST, BEV), Fiesta, F-150 Regular Cab 4x2, Value Leader/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Value Leader/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Order-it-your-Way/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Tremor/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Lariat/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 King Ranch/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Platinum/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Limited/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 SVT Raptor/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 FX4/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Harley-Davidson/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Lariat Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Order-it-your-Way Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Tremor Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Lariat Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 King Ranch Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Platinum Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Limited Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 SVT Raptor Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 FX4 Sport/ F-150 Super Cab 4x2 Harley-Davidson Sport

No one knows the Honda Accord like my mom

A maternal review.
A fan and multiple owner of Accords down the years, there was no better person to judge the latest model than my mother

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

There's a Honda Accord expert in my family, and it isn't me.

Angie Pritchard is my mom. She drives a grey, four-cylinder, automatic 2000 Honda Accord. It replaces her 1996, which was powder blue, and equipped similarly.

That earlier model had 400,000 kilometres of reliable service when she sold it. Her current Accord has 245,000. Both posed few problems, started reliably at 30 below, and got mom around when she needed to purchase ingredients or come visit her favourite son.

Charged with creating an evaluation on the new 2013 Accord Sport, I decided to hand the keys to Mom for some insight.

I am, after all, desensitized to things like backup cameras and electric power steering in a way. I see them every week. Mom doesn't. She's been driving the same car every day for years, and I can hardly imagine what that's like.

Turns out it was, largely, a list of the new Accord's thoughtful features that she loved the most.

"The steering is really light when you park it, I liked that."
That's the electric power steering. When the car is moving at parking lot speeds, it signals the power steering system to work harder, so you don't have to. You get normal steering feel at highway speeds, and an easier time parking. At low speeds, you could steer with one finger.

"It's so smooth shifting."
That's because it has a CVT or Continually Variable Transmission, which executes the smoothest gearshifts possible: none at all. With no gears to shift, power comes on a linear wave, rather than in "steps." This saves you gas and makes acceleration smooth and seamless.

"I'm going to use this all the time."
Mom was talking about the ECON button. Press it, and the Accord's computer brain makes changes to the sensor in the gas pedal, the engine, and the transmission. These changes work with your gentle driving to help save fuel. You press this when you're trying to drive as efficiently as possible.

"I love that screen that lets you see what's behind you."
That's the backup camera. Its standard on every new Accord sold, because Honda says everyone wants one. It helps with parking and navigating while you're in reverse, and makes the area in and around the Accord safer. Winter sees it easily blocked with salty road spray, but a lick of your finger and swipe over the tiny lens as you walk by clears it.

"The turn signals blink three times, on their own?"
That's an added convenience when you're changing lanes. Tap the stick once, and it blinks the blinker three times. Makes you look like a courteous driver, even if you aren't.

"The lights stay on, on their own."
Left in AUTO, the headlights turn on when it gets dark, turn off when it's not, and even stay on for a half minute after you lock the car, so you can see your way up to the house in the dark.

The 2013 Honda Accord.

My mom Angie Pritchard prior to the test drive. BOTH PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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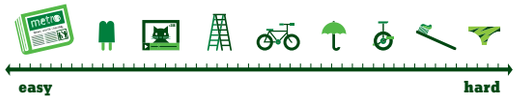


See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
The important thing today is that you focus your energy in a single direction. Because if you have more than one target, you will reduce your chances of success. What is your number one goal? Make it your only goal.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be under the impression that if you don't grab what is being offered, you will miss out or fall behind. That isn't true. You will be more of a success in the long-term if you slow down a bit now.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Jupiter, planet of good fortune, turns direct in your sign today. So there is no reason at all why you should hold back, and every reason why you should surge ahead of the pack. Show your rivals what real speed looks like.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Be careful what you say to colleagues and employers today because if they feel you are being unfair, they may turn against you. If you have to be blunt at least make sure what you say is factually true.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You won't hesitate to point out other people's faults today. In fact once you start, you may find it hard to stop. That's OK but don't forget it works both ways: Expect to have a few of your own failings highlighted.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Jupiter, planet of abundance, turns direct in the rewards and reputation area of your chart, so good things are sure to come your way. Don't worry if that seems to upset some people. They're jealous of your success.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You can afford to be optimistic and you can afford to believe that the risks you take will pay off — mostly, they will. But even when they occasionally go wrong, it won't be a big deal. You're a winner.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you are told something of a privileged nature today, you must keep it to yourself. If you let everyone in on the secret you won't be confided in again. In fact, you may in future be the last one to know.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This looks like an excellent day for partnerships, especially those of a romantic nature. Jupiter in your opposite sign of Gemini will wash away any issues you have with the person you love most.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will get through tasks and chores, both at home and at work, in record quick time today. You're a whirlwind that can't be controlled! Remember though that it's not all about speed. Make a good job of what you do too.

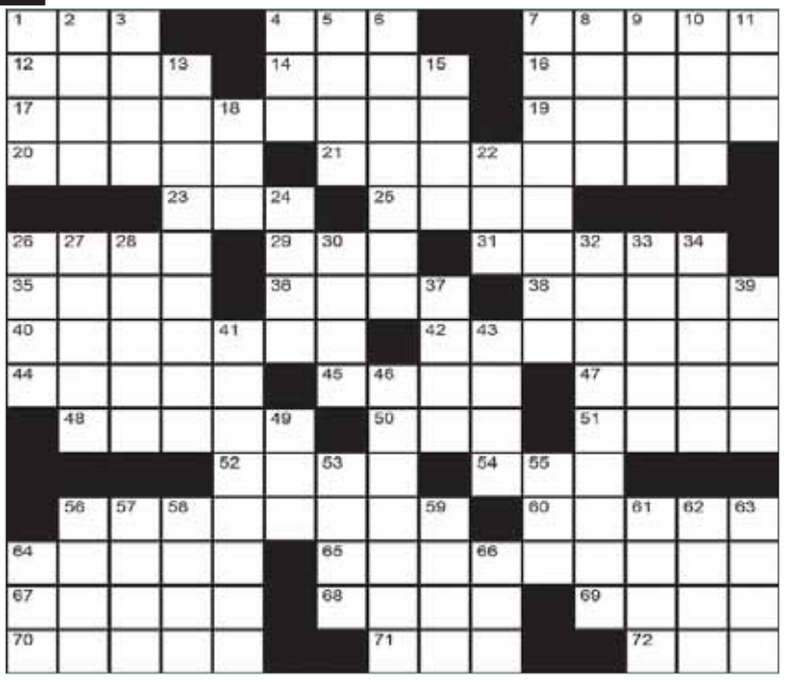
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Generally speaking, this is still one of the best times of the year for you. But with the Sun at right angles to Saturn today, you may need to watch your back. Do you have a secret enemy? Yes, it seems you do.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You are trying too hard to convince someone that you know what you are talking about. The more you try to persuade them, the more suspicious they get. But why do you need to convince them? Let your actions speak for you.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

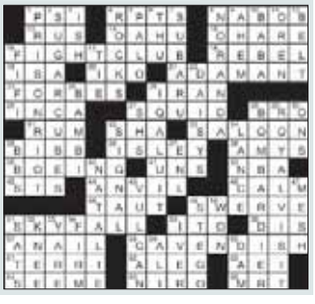
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Incidentally, texting-style
4. Blueprint
7. Big earrings
12. Press
14. Ornamental case
16. 2004 Jude Law movie remake
17. "Sunglasses at Night" singer: 2 wds.
19. 10-cent pieces
20. Van Halen guitarist
21. Born-in-Toronto film legend Mary
23. __ Angeles
25. Popular style of cooking
26. "Holy __!"
29. Work __ sweat: 2 wds.
31. V- and Crew
35. Protest song by #13-Down
36. Laundry fuzz
38. "Dancing with the Stars" alum Ms. Ali
40. Vancouver players
42. Batman foe, The __
44. Rock gig venue
45. Cosmetics company
47. "The Sopranos" actor, Robert __
48. Type of cow
50. TGIF part
51. Back muscles, to a bodybuilder
52. Not found
54. "Voices Carry" by '__ Tuesday
56. Airfield in Afghanistan
60. Nova Scotia's __ Trail
64. More wise
65. Victoria-born artist: 2 wds.
67. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
68. "White Flag" songstress
69. Place
70. Designer Calvin
71. Fresh
72. "For shame!"

Down
1. "American Idol" alum Bo
2. Step heavily
3. Microsoft program
4. "Not impressed."
5. _ ___ on the shoulder
6. Prude
7. Canadian astronaut Chris
8. Hodgepodge
9. "Being for the Benefit __ __. Kite!" by The Beatles
10. __ Piper
11. The Outsiders author Ms. Hinton's
13. Crosby, Stills & Nash bandmate, at times: 2 wds.
15. "The Seven Year __" (1955)
18. Royal officer, for short
22. The Sunflower State [abbr.]
24. Pout
26. Dominican Republic city
27. Canadian actress Catherine
28. Classic fabric
30. Famous Tower
32. Cars like Elvis' pink one
33. Harper Lee's To ___ Mockingbird
34. Rain/snow mix
37. Horse speed
39. Train stn. postings
41. Olympics symbol in Vancouver
43. Research facil.
46. Multi-__
49. "___ guy walks into..." (Classic joke intro)
53. Backyard storage
55. Glacial
56. Mr. Malden
57. Fluish feeling
58. Italian saint, Philip __
59. Amusement park feature
61. Decoy
62. Bits of food
63. "Star __
64. 'S' in NYSE, shortened
66. Unhigh

Yesterday's Crossword

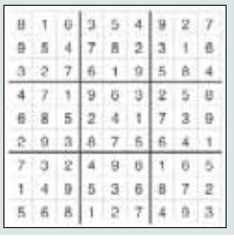


Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	6		8		1		3	
8								6
		3	7		9	4		
	4		1	8	3		2	
	8						9	
	3		9	7	6		1	
		4	5		2	1		
7								3
	5		6		7		4	

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today
12°/-6°
Showers
60%

Thursday
-2°/-8°
Variable

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PAY UNTIL SPRING∞

0% — FINANCING ON — 2013** — SELECT MODELS —

DRIVE IN WINTER, PAY IN SPRING.

Sportage SX shown^

Sorento SX shown^

Sedona EX Luxury shown^

2013 SPORTAGE

HWY (A/T): 6.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 9.7L/100KM

LEASE IT FROM **$288**§ PER MONTH

AT **1.9%** APR

FOR UP TO **48** MONTHS

HEATED SEATS | ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $2,183 and **$500 LEASE SAVINGS.** $3,000 down payment required. **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $26,878.** Offer based on 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX AT FWD.

2013 SORENTO

HWY (A/T): 6.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 9.8L/100KM

7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

AWD AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

3 MONTHLY PAYMENTS ON USᵛ ON SORENTO ONLY

OWN IT FROM **$159**≠ BI-WEEKLY WITH **$0** DOWN

AT **1.49%** APR FOR UP TO **60** MONTHS

HEATED SEATS | HEATED SIDE-VIEW MIRRORS | ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $8,131 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $2,183 and **$1,650 "3 PAYMENTS ON US" SAVINGS**ᵛ. **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $29,078.** Offer based on 2013 Sorento LX AT.

2012 SEDONA

HWY (A/T): 8.0L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 11.5L/100KM

NOW ONLY **$23,128**ᴬ

INCLUDES **$7,050** IN CASH SAVINGS‡

STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROL | HEATED SIDE-VIEW MIRRORS

Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $2,183 and **$7,050 CASH SAVINGS‡. BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $30,178.** Offer based on 2012 Sedona LX.

5 Year Warranty*

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED
*5-year/100,000 km worry-free comprehensive warranty.

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Proud Partner madd Saving Lives, Supporting Victims

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KIA The Power to Surprise

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and government fees. Prices do not include licensing or applicable taxes.

Offer(s) available on select new 2013 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by January 31, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,650, $34 tire recycling/filter charges, $5 OMVIC fee, environmental fee and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399) and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD) with a selling price of $29,078, financed at 0% APR for 60 months. 130 bi-weekly payments equal $224 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. ᵛ3 Payments On Us offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease any new 2013 Sorento from a participating dealer between January 3–31, 2013. Customers will receive a cheque in the amount of three payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $550 per month or can choose up to $1,650 reductions from the selling/lease price after taxes. See your dealer for complete details. Offer ends January 31, 2013. Cannot be combined with "Don't Pay Until Spring" offer. ∞"Don't Pay Until Spring" on select new models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on all new 2013 models. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After 90 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment O.A.C for new 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD) based on a selling price of $29,078 is $159 with an APR of 1.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period with a $0 down payment or equivalent trade. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,131 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. §Lease offer available on approved credit on new 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX AT FWD (SP752D) is based on monthly payments of $288 [includes lease savings (lease credit) of $500] for 48 months at 1.9% with a $3,000 down payment/equivalent trade, security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $16,830 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $10,048. Lease has 16,000 km/year allowance and $0.12/km for excess kilometres (other packages available). License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may lease for less. See dealer for full details. ◢Cash purchase price for 2012 Sedona LX (SD751C) is $23,128 and includes a cash savings of $7,050 (which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers). Retailer may sell for less. ‡$7,050 cash savings on the cash purchase of an eligible 2012 Sedona LX (SD751C) from a participating dealer between January 3–31, 2013 is deducted from the selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers. Some conditions apply. ^Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 3.5L SX AWD 7-seater (SR75XD)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX with Navigation (SP759D)/2012 Sedona EX Luxury with Navigation (SD75DC) is $43,045/$39,145/$42,745 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650, environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. ᴬHighway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Sportage 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2012 Sedona 3.5L MPI V6 (A/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.